

To march or not to march?
Community members offer the pros
and cons of participating in MMOW.
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Office space available
LGBT Community Center
is looking for tenants.
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No biz like show biz
Edie Adams revisits her
50-year career at the Castro.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 17 • 27 April 2000

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

**Five years for
gay man's death**

Mora takes deal

by Katie Szymanski

Wrapping up over two years of legal battles and bringing to a close one of the city's most contested hate crime murder trials, the Edgard Mora case settled early last month with a plea bargain that gives Mora five years in prison for involuntary manslaughter in the one-punch death of gay city resident Brian Wilmes outside a San Francisco bar.

With credit for time served, Mora could be out of prison in a year.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community activists were informed of the surprise news just this week.

Mora, 28, could have faced 15 years to life on the original murder charge with a hate crime enhancement, but a trial of various conflicting accounts resulted in a hung jury last September. Mora was intoxicated and angry when he went on a drunken assault spree on March 12, 1998, according to testimony. He assaulted a homeless man that evening before seeing Wilmes cross Mission Street dressed in leather fetish wear. Witnesses said they heard Mora call Wilmes "faggot" and "bitch" before and after delivering the single punch. The force of the blow caused Wilmes to fall, and he hit his head on the sidewalk outside of the Loading Dock bar, dying two days later.

But by not being able to prove Mora's intent to kill, or a history of anti-gay sentiment, prosecutors found themselves without a conviction at all. At least with manslaughter, critics of the prosecution said, Mora would be doing time.

The manslaughter agreement was reached after months of negotiations, and includes an additional two years of sentencing for hate crime enhancement, according to Fred Gardner, spokesman for District Attorney Terence Hallinan.

"Terence said he was glad to get the two years for the hate crime tacked on, given the fact that the jury had spoken," Gardner told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Indeed the extra two years for a hate crime seemed unlikely given the earlier mistrial and Mora's continuing insistence that he had nothing against gay people. Additionally, because many jurors in the first trial thought of "faggot" as just "a word people use," the chances of a second jury finding the phrase as evidence of a hate crime were slim. But the hate crime charge was agreed to in order to get the deal, according to Robert Dunlap, Mora's attorney, who most likely did not want to go through another long trial.

After the mistrial, and during his
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Boycott of SF's pot ID cards threatened

by Terry Beswick

There was anger in the noon air last Thursday, April 20 as about 75 medical marijuana activists picketed on the sidewalk in front of 101 Grove Street, just a few yards beneath the gilded balcony skirting the office of San Francisco's director of public health, Dr. Mitch Katz.

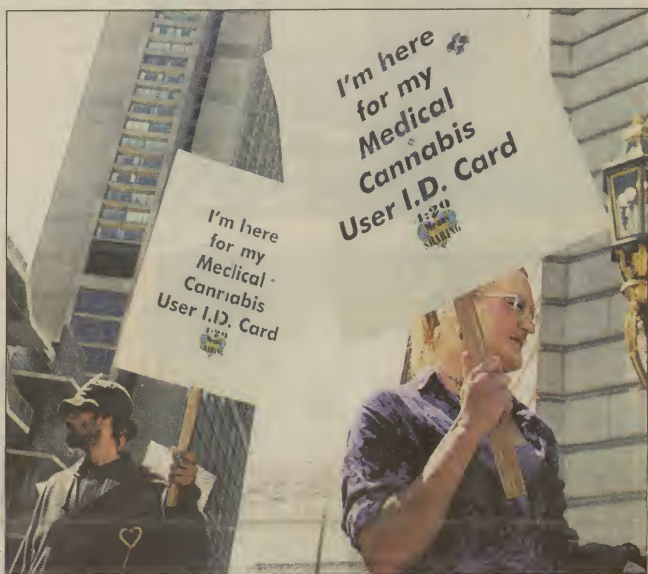
The Department of Public Health, just across the street from City Hall, was being accused by the activists of violating Article 28 of the San Francisco Health Code.

Specifically, DPH had failed to "heed the vision, expertise, and voluntary counsel of private citizens" as directed last month by the Board of Supervisors in Article 28, an amendment to the Health Code that requires the department to implement an identification card system for city dwellers and their caregivers who legally use or cultivate marijuana under Proposition 215, California's 1996 medicinal marijuana law.

From the street, San Francisco's top doc appeared to be busy at his desk, and did not seem to take notice of either the protesters' chants, or the occasional waft of hemp rising from the crowd.

Led by the San Francisco Patients' Resource Center, a 9-month-old, medical mar-

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Medical marijuana activists picketed outside the SF Dept. of Public Health Thursday, April 20.

Final approval for Vermont civil union bill

by Cynthia Laird

The only thing standing between same-sex Vermont couples and getting benefits similar to marriage is the governor's signature on the civil union law as the legislation passed its final hurdle Tuesday, April 25 when the House voted 79-68 to accept amendments made by the state Senate last week.

Governor Howard Dean has promised to sign the bill and may do so by the end of this week.

The bill would make Vermont the first state in the nation to give gay and lesbian couples the benefits of marriage. The most significant change that the House had to approve involved moving up the date when the first civil unions could be formed, to July 1 instead of two months later. Most of the new law will become effective at that time, except for provisions relating to insurance and taxes which become effective in 2001.

Ed Flanagan, the openly gay Vermont state auditor and U.S. Senate candidate, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the vote shows Vermont living up to its tradition. "Vermont has a long and

rich history of supporting and championing civil liberties and I think this is an extension of that," he said.

"This is history. This is thrilling. This is the dawn of a new era of support and protection for the families of lesbian and gay couples and their children," said Gary Buseck, executive director of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, the legal organization which co-counseled the landmark case that prompted the legislative action.

Opponents to the bill made one last-ditch effort to derail the legislation before Tuesday's final vote, but that motion was defeated 84-63.

Flanagan said that he expects most Vermonters to come around to supporting the new law, "particularly when legislators go home to their districts, which they will do soon, and explain their very thoughtful process."

"I think the emotions will be somewhat subdued," Flanagan said.

"The granting of the equal protections of the law by providing the legal protections, benefits, and responsibilities that flow from marriage will not diminish your humanity, your dignity, your freedom, or independence," House Judiciary Committee Chairman Thomas Little said. "The

continued denial of these legal protections, benefits, and responsibilities to a small but vulnerable class of Vermont's citizens diminishes their humanity, dignity, freedom, and independence."

The civil union law was the state's answer to a Vermont Supreme Court ruling December 20 that stated same-sex couples must be given the same benefits, protections, and responsibilities as married couples of the opposite sex. All five justices agreed that same-sex couples deserve equal rights.

Mary Bonauto, a GLAD attorney who lit-
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Vermont State Auditor Ed Flanagan

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'Juvenile injustice' goes to court

by Katie Szymanski

It's official. The American Civil Liberties Union, the League of Women Voters, the Children's Advocacy Institute, and Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth filed a lawsuit last Thursday, April 20 in the California Supreme Court against Proposition 21, known to many as the "Juvenile Injustice Initiative."

The ballot measure, approved by California voters nearly 2 to 1 in the March 7 election, is being challenged on the grounds that it violates the single-subject rule of state propositions by making changes to the state's penal law and Welfare and Institutions Code and three prior voter-approved measures, including the "Three Strikes" initiative.

"Increasingly we see extremely long, complicated measures covering a number of marginally related issues placed on the ballot," said a statement issued by the League of Women Voters. "The campaigns for and against these measures, reduced to sound bites and brief summaries, cannot inform even reasonably attentive voters about the impact of their vote and the possible consequences."

Proposition 21 requires youth as young as 14 to be tried as adults

for violent crimes and even sentenced to death, makes \$400 worth of graffiti damage a felony while simultaneously prohibiting parole for youth felons, and increases penalties for what is perceived to be "gang" related crime.

Different versions of the measure appeared on ballots throughout the state, and none of those versions included the non-violent offenses for which kids can now go to jail. The voters also were not told about how Proposition 21 amends prior voter-approved initiatives, according to the ACLU.

Whether it was because the announcement coincided with the first anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre or because of a distorted notion that all voters knew exactly what Proposition 21 entailed, the news that the ballot measure was being challenged in court was met with hostility by mainstream media outlets last week, which placed several high-profile youth violence cases next to the stories about the lawsuit.

The television stations and larger newspapers missed the point, however, that Proposition 21 not only was confusing to most voters, but that it redefines what constitutes a "gang," specifically to play into sheltered fears that a group of brown or black youth who dress alike are part of a larger conspiracy.

And, as the mainstream media continues to ignore, the proposition does not just target violence. A violent youth, with or without Proposition 21, will most likely do time. But with Proposition 21, a youth who is involved with graffiti (most likely a youth from a poorer neighborhood) will be a felon for life, meaning a teenager's mistake with a can of paint could literally put an end to his or her future. Compare that with a kid from a wealthier suburb who does thousands of dollars in damage to the neighborhood golf course and gets a slap on the wrist, and the problem of the initiative becomes quite clear: what is considered "mischievous," for some is considered "hard crime" for others. In short, one group of California's youth will go to college, while the rest will go to prison, according to the initiative's opponents.

The petitioners against Proposition 21 have asked that the state grant a stay of the measure in order to prevent it from being enforced while it is in court.

"Many youthful offenders will suffer irreparable hardship if Proposition 21 is enforced, today and every day that Proposition 21 remains in effect," said the brief. "Those harms will be difficult, if not impossible, to remedy if this court later finds Proposition 21 unconstitutional." ▼

COLAGE kicks off new youth programs

by Jose Antonio Vargas

COLAGE, Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere, is a nonprofit, international organization that aims to foster the growth of daughters and sons of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender parents of all racial, ethnic, and class backgrounds. In addition to its two current programs focused on supporting middle school-aged children from LGBT families, COLAGE is adding four new programs dedicated to serving its clients.

According to Jude Koski, field and chapter coordinator at COLAGE's headquarters in San Francisco, there are about 2,000 LGBT families in the Bay Area alone.

"Our goal is to give support and provide education for all ages," said Koski. "Kids in LGBT households who grow up with LGBT parents go to school where straight parents or straight single moms and dads are considered the model. As kids of LGBT families, they feel weird. Through COLAGE, we're able to connect kids

of all ages with other kids who are growing up in similar families. We create a sense of community."

For high school students who are children of LGBT families, support groups in San Francisco and in the East Bay soon will be formed. For adult children of LGBT families who are living in the Bay Area, an activity group that meets once a week was recently started. For information on the activity group, contact Sanjai at (415) 876-0610 or e-mail at rababa20@hotmail.com.

Every other Monday, children of transgender parents meet at the Alternative Family Project offices at 425 Divisadero Street, Suite 203. It's an activity and discussion group that is open only to kids whose parents are in the AFP TG parenting group. For information, parents can call (415) 436-9000 and kids should call Lisi at (415) 621-6811.

Currently, COLAGE serves about 10,000 members from all over the United States and from as far away as Canada and Sweden. Through 30 chapters COLAGE offers a pen pal program, online group

discussions, an international quarterly newsletter called "Just for Us," a Bay Area newsletter called "COLAGE Notes," and support groups.

Next month, Koski said interested community members are invited to what promises to be a fun-filled afternoon picnic on Saturday, May 20 at Tilden Park in Berkeley from noon-3 p.m. People should meet at the Grizzly picnic area.

One example of those helped by COLAGE is 24-year-old Meredith Fenton. Fenton's mother, Illinois resident Bonnie, came out as a lesbian to her three years ago. According to Fenton, COLAGE helped her deal with the situation.

"It's great to have people who understand where you're coming from," said Fenton. "Once I started to realize that there are people out there going through the same thing, it made it easier. It's so powerful to have that shared experience." ▼

For more information about COLAGE, call Jude Koski at (415) 861-5437 or e-mail at Jude@COLAGE.org.

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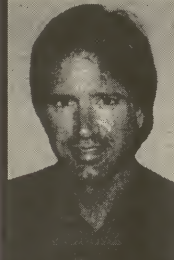
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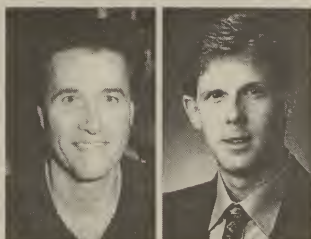
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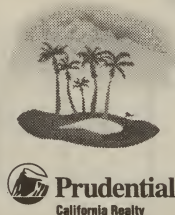
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Easter in the Castro



Marc Celier

Cris Williamson, a pioneer of women's music, wowed churchgoers last Sunday, April 23, when she performed at the Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco's Easter service. Williamson began her career 30 years ago and introduced women's music which became a foundation for the lesbian movement.

Same-sex marriage ballot measure fails

by Terry Beswick

Some people stick their finger in the wind to determine their position on a controversial issue, while others stick their finger in the eye of the political mainstream.

Tom Henning, his Los Angeles-based brother John, and their allies are of the latter breed, and despite their recent failure to obtain

670,000 valid signatures of California voters by April 20 to put an initiative on the November ballot that would legalize gay marriage, they plan to buck the conventional wisdom again, in the hopes that Californians will be able to wrap their brains around queer couples in 2002.

Announced just last November, the Internet-based, grassroots signature drive was fighting an uphill battle from the start, with-

out major donors to underwrite a professional effort in the midst of another uphill battle for the lesbian and gay community: the campaign to stop the anti-gay marriage Proposition 22.

"We are today announcing a new campaign to place this measure on the November 2002 ballot," said Tom Henning, spokesman for the all-volunteer Californians for Same-Sex Marriage, which gath-

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Queer youth symposium tackles body image

by Katie Szymanski

Well, it's about time. With all the eating disorders and body obsession that remains unspoken in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities - not to mention the gender-specific body stereotypes that yes, even we fall prey to believing - Stanford University will dedicate a day to addressing LGBT body image with its "Queer in the Mirror" symposium this Saturday, April 29.

Queer in the Mirror will feature transgender activist Kate Born-

stein, author of *Gender Outlaw*, and editor Dawn Atkins, coordinator of *Looking Queer: Body Image and Identity in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Communities*. The conference is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will address such topics as the media targeting LGBT people, exercise addiction, body image for transgender people, ageism, "looking queer," and fat phobia.

Sponsored by Stanford's LGB Community Center, Cowell Health Promotion Services, the American College Health Association, representatives from Stanford's Women's Center, Black and Queer at Stanford, and Familia de

Stanford, the symposium will operate from the belief that body dissatisfaction is directly related to one's self worth and identity.

Because the symposium arose out of a cooperative agreement entitled, "College Students in High-Risk Situations," Saturday's symposium is open to high school and college-age queer youth from the Bay Area. Registration is free. ▼

For more information, or to register, visit www.stanford.edu/group/QR/body or call Somera Yisrael at (650) 725-8393.

Students honored by LGBT awards

by Katie Szymanski

To recognize high school seniors who have made outstanding contributions in academics and volunteer work while promoting the greater understanding of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender commu-

nities, PG&E will host its 10th annual scholarship awards dinner in partnership with the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network and Kaiser's LGBT Employee Association.

The awards dinner will be held at Roccapulco Supper Club, 3140 Mission Street, next Sunday, May 7 from 5-10 p.m. and will include

keynote addresses from the honored students themselves. A special award named in honor of the late Dick Pabich will be presented this year.

Tickets to the dinner are just \$45 per person, some of which is tax deductible. A RSVP is requested by May 3; call (415) 973-6837 for more information. ▼

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Pedal for Project Inform May 13

by Terry Beswick

Thinking of biking around more this spring? Daydreaming of a West End vacation? Been meaning to do more to fight AIDS?

Saturday, May 13, Bay Area bicycle enthusiasts will have a chance to do all three: pumping their pedals for "seven leisurely miles" through San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, raising money for Project Inform, and perhaps winning a round-trip for two to London, with three nights at the posh Savoy Hotel, plus West End theater tickets, among other prizes.

"It's the biggest little bike ride in the world," quipped Project Inform's Julie Doherty, who is helping to organize the "decidedly low-impact, high-output" sixth annual Ron Wilmot Bike Ride.

The event's first ride was organized in 1995 under the leadership of longtime Project Inform volunteer and supporter Ron Wilmot, who died from AIDS-related complications two years later.

According to Doherty, last year's ride attracted just 70 riders. Yet the bike riders raised an average of \$1,000 each, together bringing home a record-breaking \$78,000 for Project Inform's groundbreaking HIV/AIDS treatment education and advocacy work.

This year, Doherty said the group wants to break \$100,000, and hopes that the lure of London and other tantalizing prizes will help enlist more than 100 riders, and to get them to register soon so they can get busy hitting up

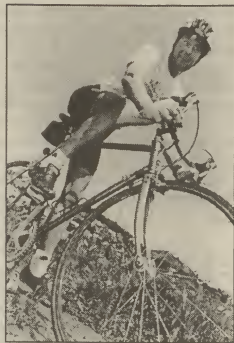
friend, family, and foe for tax-deductible, charitable donations.

Project Inform uses the funds raised to support its no-cost services, including a national hotline, a Web site, various publications, and popular town meetings, which together provide complete HIV treatment information known for being user-friendly, yet cutting-edge.

Now commemorating its 15th year serving people with HIV/AIDS, the organization has an annual budget of \$2.4 million.

Project Inform reports that 95 percent of the money raised by their staff- and volunteer-run bike ride goes directly into the organization's programs and services—a sharp contrast from most charity fundraisers, which are often produced by expensive outside contractors.

Organizers emphasize that the Ron Wilmot Bike Ride "is open to riders of all abilities, including those of us who are totally out of shape!" Doherty also told the *Bay Area Reporter* that, for those with



The late Ron Wilmot

other talents, more volunteers are needed.

Pedaling forth at 9 a.m., the bicyclists will begin and end the moving event in Golden Gate Park's Peacock Meadow, located just past McLaren Lodge on John F. Kennedy Jr. Boulevard. But back to the prizes.

All qualified participants who raise \$100 or more—or those who simply donate at least \$100—get a "cool T-shirt."

And of course they're entered into the raffle for the perk-laden package in London.

Yet Doherty and colleagues expect that most biker guys and gals will raise at least \$500 each. And just to make sure that rubber hits the road, there are incentive prizes for those who really call in the karma, and bring in \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000, or more: a Palm Springs getaway; luxurious San Francisco accommodations for the in-laws or some well-deserved pampering; an awesome bike clothing package; fine cuisine at a variety of area restaurants; and other goodies. ▼

To register or volunteer for the Ron Wilmot Bike Ride for Project Inform, go to www.projectinform.org, call Julie Doherty at (415) 558-8669 ext. 223, or by e-mail at jdoherthy@projectinform.org.

'Positive Pedalers' to be honored by city

by Cynthia Laird

Next Thursday, May 4, San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano will declare "Positive Pedalers Day" in the city, honoring a group of HIV-positive bicycle riders who have raised over \$2 million in five years for the San Francisco AIDS

Foundation and Project Inform.

The event, open to the public, takes place at noon on the steps of City Hall. In addition to Ammiano, Supervisor Mark Leno will be on hand, along with Jonathan Pon, president of Positive Pedalers; Lonnie Payne, chair of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's board; and Julie Doherty, from Project Inform.

A Positive Pedaler-led bicycle

and remembrance walk around Civic Center Plaza will immediately follow the ceremony.

This year, members of the Positive Pedalers of Northern California will be representing the face of HIV in nine bicycling fundraisers throughout the United States benefiting over 100 AIDS service and vaccine research organizations. ▼

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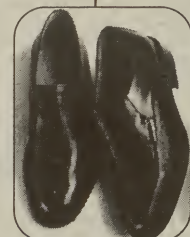
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Cheers and jeers

The lesbian and gay communities have reason to celebrate this week, as the Vermont Legislature has taken a bold plunge for equal rights by giving final approval to a civil union law that will see many legal benefits of marriage bestowed upon same-sex couples who seek such a union. Governor Howard Dean signed the precedent-setting bill into law Wednesday, making Vermont the first state in the nation to recognize that same-sex couples deserve the same civil benefits of marriage as their opposite-sex counterparts.

We applaud the many gays, lesbians, and straight supporters, as well as many Vermont legislators, who worked tirelessly to make the civil union law a reality; and we must also praise the Vermont Supreme Court, which correctly ruled last December that same-sex couples must be given the same benefits, protections, and responsibilities as married couples of the opposite sex. It was that decision which set the chain of events in motion that culminated in the successful passage this week of the civil union bill.

Here in California, the Legislature has taken up several bills that would, if approved and signed by Governor Gray Davis, expand on rights we gained last year with the establishment of the statewide domestic partner registry. While we would certainly rather have a sweeping civil union law like Vermont, we realize that the incremental steps forward with the new legislative proposals are probably the wisest course of action in this post-Proposition 22 climate ... at least right now.

In the bad news department this week, we were surprised to learn of the plea bargain negotiated between the San Francisco District Attorney's office and Edgard Mora, the man accused of killing gay city resident Brian Wilmes over two years ago. We distinctly recall after last September's mistrial in the Mora murder trial, District Attorney Terence Hallinan – in the midst of a fierce re-election

campaign – promised the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities that the Mora case would be retried.

The decision to settle the Mora case – he got five years and could be out in about one year – shows us that Hallinan's promises carry little, if any, weight.

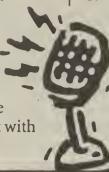
If Hallinan thought a murder conviction couldn't be won after the mistrial, he should have been honest with the community rather than pander to us with an empty promise.

Even the progressive Tom Ammann, president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, was shocked by the plea bargain, and angry with the DA's office, though we think his analogy to Dan White is a bit overstated in this case.

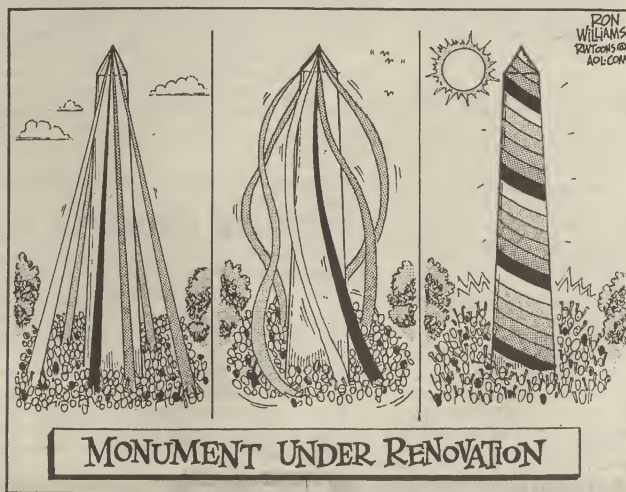
Hallinan aggressively courted the LGBT communities last year and he told us during his campaign that "I have no tolerance for anti-gay hate violence. It has no place in our country and especially in our city."

He said he would engage media outlets to make clear to all San Franciscans and to individuals around the Bay Area that they "will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law if they come to San Francisco and assault our LGBT brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers."

Well Mr. Hallinan, what are you telling the family of Brian Wilmes? That five years is punishment enough for the man who took Wilmes's life? Is that the "fullest extent of the law?" We don't think so. ▼



Editorial



First United, now Bechtel

by Jeff Sheehy, Carol Stuart, and Geoff Kors

Last week, United Airlines employees received a letter which opened with the following: "As announced last year, United Airlines will begin offering benefits to domestic partners of our employees effective May 1, 2000. United is pleased to offer these benefits as part of our commitment to valuing diversity among both our employees and our customers."

Also last week, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission voted to enter into negotiations with Bechtel Corporation (working under the cloak name the Water Alliance) to manage one of the largest contracts in the city's history: the SFPUC's \$3.5 billion capital improvement program.

It is ironic that as we celebrate the end to a three-year struggle to end discrimination against lesbian and gay employees by one company, we must again contend with another company seeking to skirt the requirements of the equal benefits ordinance.

Bechtel Inc. is a giant San Francisco-based construction and engineering firm with some 30,000 employees worldwide. For the contract mentioned above, Bechtel Inc. has managed to obtain certification of compliance with the equal benefits ordinance from the Human Rights Commission for one of its minor subdivisions, BINFRA (Bechtel Infrastructure). BINFRA employs 497 people nationwide. BINFRA's employees with domestic partners are now getting so-called soft benefits (e.g., bereavement and family medical leave). Those employees will receive the rest of the benefits such as medical and dental on January 1, 2001, presumably after the full contract has been awarded. Bechtel will, in the words of the HRC, "continue to discriminate" against the other approximately 29,500 employees who may or may not have domestic

partners.

Can Bechtel legally obtain certification of compliance with the equal benefits ordinance for only one of its smaller subsidiaries and qualify to bid on this contract?

Maybe, maybe not. When Riley Bechtel, CEO of Bechtel appeared before the SFPUC to ask that his company to receive the contract, he did not mention BINFRA. Instead, he said, "Good afternoon Commissioners. My name is Riley Bechtel. I'm chairman and CEO of the Bechtel Group. One hundred and two years ago, my grandfather began a construction business. About 20 years thereafter, he incorporated it and established the headquarters here in San Francisco. ... Today, Bechtel has some 30,000 people around the globe – over 13,000 in the United States alone. And Bechtel alone has 1,500 here in San Francisco. I submit to you that the San Francisco Water Alliance, of which Bechtel is the lead partner, is the right and only team for this project."

The question for us is not just legal, but moral and political as well. Do we support Bechtel getting this huge contract paid for by us, the taxpayers, when they continue to discriminate? We say no.

To get the contract, Bechtel must receive final approval from the SFPUC sometime in May. Then, the Board of Supervisors must approve the awarding of the contract to Bechtel. Finally, the voters have approved only approximately \$400 million of the bonds needed to finance this project. The other estimated \$3 billion in bonds will have to be approved in elections requiring a two-thirds majority voting yes.

The other bidder on this contract, O'Brien-Kreitzberg, has been giving domestic partner benefits since 1996. Its parent companies, Dames & Moore and URS, both offer domestic partner benefits. Ap-

proximately 15,000 employees are covered. They also have been rated as the better choice to get the contract by an independent analysis of the bids performed by the SFPUC's own evaluation panel.

Do we advocate that O'Brien-Kreitzberg gets the contract over Bechtel? No, but we do insist that Bechtel match O'Brien-Kreitzberg (plus Dames & Moore and URS) and offer all of its employees company-wide domestic partner benefits. Bechtel must cease discriminating against its employees with domestic partners.

Further, we offer this challenge to both companies. This contract is to manage \$3.5 billion of public money. Offer to insist that your subcontractors also get certification from the HRC, not only as compliant with the equal benefits ordinance, but as compliant with all of the non-discrimination provisions.

In the meantime, interested readers should contact members of the SFPUC and members of the Board of Supervisors. Ask them to oppose Bechtel's bid for this contract as long as Bechtel continues to treat its lesbian and gay employees unfairly. Our tax dollars should not go to fund discrimination.

Take a moment this Monday, May 1, and think about the 100,000 employees of United Airlines who now have access to domestic partner benefits. Consider the 100,000 employees of American Airlines, the 50,000 employees of US Air, and the flight attendants of Continental Airlines who also now have access to benefits.

Our community made this happen. United we changed United and, united we'll change Bechtel. ▼

The authors are founders of Equal Benefits Advocates.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

In strength there is survival

I attended the structured treatment interruption workshop presented by Project Inform and Survive AIDS. As everyone knows by now it was disrupted by the misnamed ACT UP/SF.

As a person living with this disease I was dismayed at our collective response to this outrage. We need to stand up to these revisionist creeps once and for all.

There were around 75 of us – people with HIV/AIDS, activists, advocates, and doctors – and six of them. Yet we failed to confront them effectively. Sure some of us got in their face, many stood and chanted and yelled at them. In the end, sadly, we let these would-be school yard bullies push us around.

Rather than calling the cops – remember this is the same police department that violently swept the Castro in response to the real ACT UP – or calling for the feds to investigate their pot club money, we should take care of our community ourselves. In collective action there is strength. In strength there is survival.

We are a strong, battle-tested bunch. We stood up to the government, the drug companies, and the bigots. Now it is time to stand up to those who would deny us information – information we desperately need to more effectively fight this awful disease.

There is a growing sentiment that enough is enough. Let's stand up, stand together and fight back. ACT UP/SF=Death. Action=Life.

Paul Shannon, Treatment Advocate
Oakland, California

Shame on ACT UP/SF

I attended the Project Inform meeting held Monday, April 17 which was subsequently disrupted by ACT UP/San Francisco protesters. The vehemence and violence of their demonstration left me stunned, disgusted, and scared. Was the protesters' wrath supposed to be for the benefit of the professional panelists? Their angry opposition is hardly new to Martin Delaney et al and they certainly weren't there to open a meaningful dialogue. I can only conclude that the disruption was intended to intimidate, coerce, and punish the audience members who were there to gather information for making informed healthcare decisions.

As a gay man and a PWA, I have enough challenges in my life. I don't need an angry mob of people screaming, spitting, and throwing things in order to impede my access to information and judging me for associating with any group. ACT UP/San Francisco does it under the pretense of saving me. The protesters are so passionate about their beliefs they show complete disregard for others' rights and freedoms. Doesn't that sound frighteningly familiar? Don't those ACT UP/SF protesters abhor pro-lifers who block or attack abortion clinics? Don't they despise Fred Phelps and his ilk who are so callous as to carry their protests as far as Matthew Shepard's funeral? Don't they see the similarity with their actions?

As the protesters finally began to leave, I heard chanting of "Shame! Shame! Shame!" My first assumption was that it was the audience's reaction to ACT UP/SF's awful behavior. Silly me, it was the ACT UP/SF protesters themselves, proving they still don't get it. Shame on you, I say.

Dave Johnson
Oakland, California

Greatest medical hoax ever?

While one may not agree with ACT UP/SF's tactics, it's sad that no one seems to be paying much attention to their message. Fact is, they're right. AIDS is dead as a doornail. Many of us have known from the beginning that the silly HIV theory was just a money maker. It will go down as the greatest medical hoax ever. Now, with an articulate and intelligent head of state in Africa daring to think for himself rather than be bullied by the AIDS establishment, the whole thing is beginning to unravel. Perhaps your reporters should take a closer look at what Dr. Duesberg et al have been saying.

Gene Franks, Ph.D.
Denton, Texas

Shouting or terrorism?

What's worse: throwing pills around, shouting, screaming, and a little pushing or being lied to, terrorized, and poisoned to death daily based on a faulty hypothesis?

I pick the latter.

Dennis McKown
HEAL San Diego

Tinnitus info

For those who have troubling ringing in the ears (tinnitus), there is an organization: American Tinnitus Association. And there is a magazine with stories of remedies, research, etc. The address is: P.O. Box 5, Portland, Oregon 97207.

Ernest Krause
San Francisco

Syphilis alert in SoCal

Last week the state of California Department of Health Services alerted all California county health departments to a syphilis outbreak in Southern California.

During the first three months of 2000, 158 early syphilis cases were diagnosed in Los Angeles, Orange County, and Long Beach. While the number of early syphilis cases identified in these health jurisdictions does not represent a large increase from the first three months of 1999 (138 cases), the unique characteristics of the cases involved suggests that there is an outbreak.

A high proportion of the cases analyzed thus far are among men who have sex with men, over half of whom are HIV-positive. Since many of these men's sexual partners were met at bathhouses, bars, on party lines, and the Internet, there is a high likelihood that transmission to partners has occurred outside the Southern California area.

We strongly recommend that men who have had unprotected sex with anonymous male partners or male partners from Los Angeles, Orange County, or Long Beach see their doctor or come to the municipal STD clinic, City Clinic, 356 Seventh Street, between Folsom and Harrison streets, for medical evaluation. City Clinic provides STD evaluation and treatment for free or low cost (415-487-5500).

Syphilis is a preventable and curable disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has initiated a nationwide effort to eliminate syphilis in the United States. As part of this effort, and to maintain the good sexual health of all San Franciscans, we feel it is our duty to provide early and accurate information to the community and encourage persons who may be at risk for syphilis to get tested.

Dr. Jeffrey D. Klausner, Director
STD Prevention and Control Services
San Francisco Department of Public Health

After LBT forum, cuts proposed

Thank you for covering the Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Women's Health Forum. ("LBT health forum breaks down barriers," April 13). I had the privilege of attending this historical meeting that was sponsored by Supervisor Leslie Katz and Mayor Brown.

As the director of psychiatric social work at San Francisco General Hospital and the founding co-chair of the SFGH LGBT Task Force, I am well aware of the unique concerns facing LGBT psychiatric clients. It wasn't too long ago that "homosexuality" was actually a psychiatric diagnosis. "Gender Identity Disorder" and "Transvestic Fetishism" remain in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV).

It's incredibly ironic, following the success of the LBT Women's Health Forum that the Department of Public Health would recommend eliminating 22 acute psychiatric beds in a nationally recognized program. In essence this will drastically reduce specialized services to this already underserved patient population.

SFGH's Department of Psychiatry was the first in the nation to provide specialized culturally competent services to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in acute psychiatric crisis.

Why would the city host an outstanding health forum dedicated to LBT women while the DPH simultaneously dismantles one of the only LGBT psychiatric services in the nation? I hope the LGBT community will encourage the DPH to follow in the footsteps of Mayor Brown and the Board of Supervisors in valuing health care that respects our community.

Milly Trabling, LCSW
Director, Psychiatric Social Work
San Francisco General Hospital
UCSF Assistant Clinical Professor

The other side of gay bars

Historian David Bianco, in his Past Out column ["What role have gay bars played in gay history," April 13] lauds gay bars for their past and present contributions to our cause. Sadly, Bianco fails to comment on the enormous damage the nexus between bars and the homosexual lifestyle has caused to so many people.

Bar patrons often find themselves in a hostile, attitude-laden environment, having to deal with annihilating rejections. (San Francisco is famous for its unfriendly bars.) The antidote to all of this is readily available, for a price, at the bar's counter. As a patron consumes more and more alcohol, the hostile attitude seems to become friendlier, and the rejections are interpreted as quaint flirting. When completely inebriated, a patron's luck often changes for the better. Now he too can bring home a trophy, albeit one who is equally drunk.

It would be interesting to read a history of the devastatingly negative and wasteful impact gay bars have had on gay health, psyche, energy, and finances.

Joseph Itiel
San Francisco

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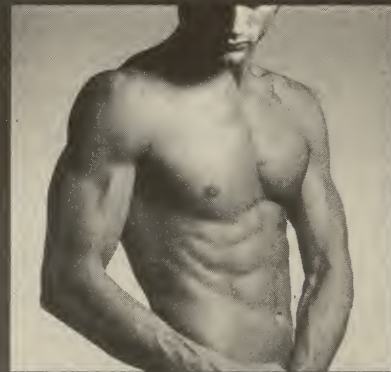
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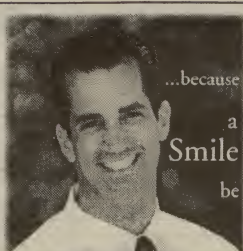
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England-1; U.S.-0

by Nancy Boutilier

No, this is not the score of a World Cup soccer match. Rather, it was the way I scored the two countries as I picked up the *Sunday Times* in Heathrow Airport, London on Easter morning. The top story of the British paper read: "Blair to let gay couples adopt." Below it was the Associated Press photo of machine-gun-toting U.S. federal agents seizing Elián González in Miami with the headline: "Give me the boy or I'll shoot."

Don't you love the way we put children first?

I won't say whether I think Elián is better off with his Miami relatives or his father, that's for people who know more of the specifics to decide, but I do know that photo does not look like a Kodak moment of putting Elián's needs first. Furthermore, the five-month marathon of coverage gave pretty strong evidence that Elián the child has taken a back seat to Elián the symbol and Elián the pawn in someone else's political cause.

When I saw the AP photo with the gun barrel directed at the frightened little boy, I thought it was a re-enactment of King Solomon's bluff to kill the child at the center of a custody dispute.

If you don't recall that particular Old Testament tale, it's the one in which two women claim maternity rights to a child. To resolve the dispute, the king draws a sword and threatens to cut the child in two so that each woman can have half. When one of the women objects and relinquishes her claim on the child to spare its life, Solomon grants custody of the child to her knowing her to be the better parent — the one most able to act in the child's best interests.

Well, it is bad enough when children are used as bargaining chips between divided couples, but when political movements start dictating the placement of a particular child in a particular home, something has gone mightily awry.

Where is a wise king when you need one?

Though he may not be King Solomon, British Prime Minister Tony Blair has shown himself open to finding the best, rather than the straightest, homes for his country's children. He is outlining a national adoption scheme that will force all local councils to give legitimate consideration to all gay and lesbian couples seeking to adopt.

The new national adoption plan will replace the criteria imposed at local levels. And, here's the radical rub reported by the *Sunday Times*: "Officials will have to treat

gay would-be parents on the same basis as anybody else, provided they fulfill criteria such as good health, parenting skills, regular income and a stable relationship."

How about that? The notion that gays and lesbians be treated as anybody else.

Britain, of course, has its share of critics who offer the familiar whine about children needing "a male and a female role model."

How is it that anyone thinks the only chance children have to encounter male and female role models is from their parents? Furthermore, this particular point only seems to come up when there are two people of the same sex raising a child, rather than when only one of either sex is trying to do the same. Is access to

male and female role models central to the debate about Elián's fate? Any guesses how statements might have sounded different if we knew one of the parties seeking custody of Elián to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender?

Well, we know how the arguments went in Indiana two years ago when Craig Peterson, a gay man in suburban Indianapolis, was trying to finalize the adoption of four siblings — three boys and one

inappropriate ways he had been behaving in her bedroom.

Long story short: the man who proclaimed in a letter to the *Indianapolis Star* that "Girls need mothers so they can learn what it is to be a woman; they need fathers so they know how to interact with the opposite sex," is the same man who recently pleaded guilty to four counts of child molestation. He is now serving a 40-year prison sentence for sexually abusing the very daughter he "rescued" from gay adoption.

Now, should we use this case to generalize? Shall we assume that all married men who want to adopt girls will molest them?

No, of course not. So why generalize in any way about gay and lesbian would-be parents? And how did the politicized arena in which that adoption was made serve the needs of that particular girl?

Thankfully, last November, Governor Gray Davis ordered California social services workers to disregard the 12-year-old policy that required the Department of Social Services to recommend rejection of any adoption by an unmarried couple — which, of course, would include the rejection of any gay or lesbian couple.

Did it really take 12 years to realize that such blanket policies do not serve the children involved? Of course not. It's all about political di-

Once again, it's the children who suffer for the battling and posturing of the adults in power.

girl. Peterson had made it through the adoption maze, and the local board voted unanimously to place the four children with him.

According to the Associated Press, after the vote, when the foster parents of the girl learned that Peterson was gay, they set off a series of protests, letter-writing campaigns and rallies against gay adoption. To prevent the girl from being placed with Peterson, the foster parents filed papers to adopt her. With that bandwagon rolling, Republican state representatives sponsored a bill to ban adoptions by homosexuals in Indiana.

Fortunately, that bill was eventually defeated. Unfortunately, the board's original vote was discounted, and the foster parents were granted the adoption in December 1998. For fear that he might also lose the boys, Peterson chose not to fight the placement of their sister.

If all that is not bad enough, a year and a half later, the 8-year-old girl who had been "protected" from the prospect of a gay father came forward with the truth about her straight dad — and the

mate, and once again, it's the children who suffer for the battling and posturing of the adults in power.

Sadly, statewide efforts to prevent gay men and lesbians from adopting children seem to be on the rise in this country. Arkansas and Utah were the first to specifically prevent gays and lesbians from becoming foster parents or adopting children. Conservatives in Congress have tried to pass similar legislation for the District of Columbia.

Where is the national leadership recognizing that good parenting is not a function of one's sexual orientation? I think it's time to find new ways, or perhaps old ways, well, simply *better* ways to put children first. All these politicians saying they care about kids, they want to put children first, and what do we have to show for it?

"Blair to let gay couples adopt" in London. "Give me the boy or I'll shoot" in Miami. So, the score after one day's headlines is England 1, United States 0.

But the only measure that really matters is whether the children are winning. ▼

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POLITICS

The Elián saga: Political fallout for Gore, Bush?

by Wayne Friday

Not surprisingly, since most there were political types, the speculation at an Easter brunch I attended Sunday centered around what the political fallout would be at the presidential level over the decision by Attorney General **Janet Reno**—surely with the approval of the White House—to forcibly remove 6-year-old **Elián González** from the home of his Florida relatives in the early morning hours last Saturday. Did the government try hard enough to reach an accord with the Miami relatives of the young boy that would eventually result in a mutual handing over of the kid to his Cuban father? Or, as many believe, had the Miami relatives, particularly **Lázaro González**, Elián's great-uncle, long ago resolved that the only way the young boy would ever be reunited with his father, **Juan Miguel González**, was for the U.S. government to come into the house Elián had called home since last November and forcibly remove him.

Personally, I suspect the latter, but ask five different people this question and you'll likely receive as many different opinions. Clearly, the Miami relatives of the young boy hate Cuban dictator **Fidel Castro** so much that they were intent from the very first to make this kid into a political statement against the Cuban leader. Many believe, myself included, that it is highly unlikely that the Miami relatives would ever have turned the custody of young Elián to his natural father, or anyone else, regardless of what offer the Justice Department made. Still, the question can justifiably be asked whether or not Reno's officers had to go into the Miami house in full riot gear, carrying machine guns. The result sure made for photos that can be nothing less than a public relations disaster for the Justice Department in particular and the Clinton administration in general.

Not pretty, but, it was over in three minutes, no one was hurt, no shots fired, and 150 days after this kid was rescued from the seas off Florida young Elián was back where he belonged—with his natural father.

The question now is: what, if any, political fallout will the Miami raid, rescue, whatever, have in the election of this country's next president? While neither Vice President **Al Gore**, the presumed Democratic nominee, nor Texas Governor **George W. Bush**, the likely GOP nominee, were publicly supportive of the action the government took last Saturday, one or the other might eventually benefit from the attorney general's move when it comes to the November election.

Gore, who broke with the administration over the Elián case weeks ago, and has weathered heavy criticism from it ever since, issued a statement reiterating his view that the conflict should have been resolved in a family court.

Bush quickly seized on the issue, attempting to blame Gore in

part by issuing a statement Saturday morning criticizing the show of force and tying Gore to the action in Miami by blaming the tense events on the "Clinton-Gore administration."

Some in the Gore camp feel that the heavy-handed action could hurt their candidate in that it might energize the political right in a fashion harmful to Gore's campaign and congressional Democrats seeking re-election, but others in the Gore camp as well as reportedly some in the Bush campaign view Clinton and Reno acting decisively to enforce the law. Some Republicans, in fact, quietly feel that the government had no choice in the matter and that it was simply time that the standoff between the Miami relatives and the federal government moved to a conclusion.

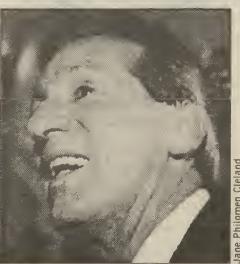
Predictably, many Republican congressional leaders quickly pounced on the "Gestapo-like move in the dark of the night," with **Trent Lott**, **Tom DeLay**, **Orrin Hatch**, and even NYC Mayor **Rudy Giuliani** issuing comments like being "ashamed to be Americans," making "America look like Cuba," and other statements intended to take political advantage of the situation. One top Washington Republican, however, told CNN that as "regrettable" as the incident looked on television, it was clear that "Janet Reno really had no other choice," pointing out that the Miami family "overestimated what they thought was their power and was openly laughing at the government's authority."

Even in Miami, reactions were polarized within some parts of the Cuban American community. While some feel that it might take the courts several months—maybe even until November to decide the asylum question (particularly if it goes all the way to the Supreme Court) most others think that the Elián González incident, sensational as it now seems, will be a mere footnote in the presidential election.

Further, while both Gore and Bush seem to be pandering, if you will, to Cuban Americans and their sympathizers, the election likely will not be decided on this highly emotional issue. In the event it is still an issue come November, look for Bush and congressional Republicans to be the beneficiaries.

Politics and people

Board of Supervisors President **Tom Ammiano** to be the featured speaker at the May 12 Concord Human Relations Commission



Supervisor Tom Ammiano

Awards dinner at the Concord Hilton Hotel and his scheduled appearance prompted a two-page story in Sunday's *Contra Costa Times* (925-671-3374 for fax and info).

California set the bar for the costliest U.S. Senate race in 1994 when **Dianne Feinstein** successfully defended her seat against Republican **Michael Huffington** by the two spending a combined \$44 million, but New York is headed for the all-time record this year with some predicting that \$100 million will be spent by the time the **Hillary Clinton-Rudy Giuliani** race is decided in November.

The Reverend **Jerry Falwell**, who founded the now-defunct Moral Majority back in 1979, with the express intention of helping elect **Ronald Reagan** president, is at it again. Falwell went to Washington earlier this month to announce this new broad-based "People of Faith 2000" campaign to register 10 million new voters for the November presidential election. Falwell, who says religious conservatives are "discouraged and frustrated" after eight years of President Clinton, admits that his new scheme is little more than an effort to help elect George W. Bush as the next president, but a watchdog group, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, quickly filed a complaint with the Internal Revenue Service complaining that the pro-Bush Falwell is violating his tax-exempt status and charged that his new organization clearly violates rules prohibiting non-profit groups from engaging in partisan political activities.

Newsreader-actress **Donna Hanover**, the wife of NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani (NYC columnists call theirs a "strained marriage") soon will take over the lead role in the sexually suggestive off-Broadway hit *The Vagina Monologues*, a play written by **Eve Ensler**, a close friend and political supporter of Hillary Clinton.

Back in San Francisco, local musician **Jello Biafra**, onetime mayoral candidate and former lead singer of the punk rock band Dead Kennedys, said he is "dead serious" about seeking the Green Party's presidential nomination but knows he's in for a fight from consumer activist perennial dogooder **Ralph Nader** for the party's nod.

In Washington, California's Democratic, Republican, Libertarian and Peace & Freedom parties argued before the U.S. Supreme Court this week that the state's single ballot "blanket" form of primary, otherwise known as the "open primary" is in fact unconstitutional; the four political parties are asking the Supreme Court to declare the blanket primary a violation of their First Amendment right of "freedom of association," and asked the high court to overturn Proposition 198, passed by California voters in 1996, giving the state's 1.6 million independent voters their first opportunity to vote in what had been "closed," members-only party contests.

Former San Francisco Assistant District Attorney **Judy Johnson**, 52, who got her first job as an attorney from former District Attorney **Arlo Smith**, has been named chief executive officer of the California State Bar Association, the first woman to hold this post in the Bar's 73-year history. ▼

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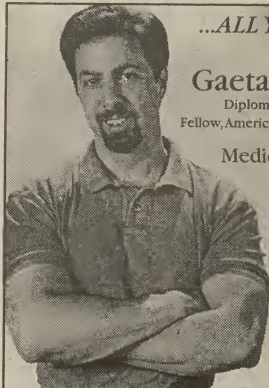
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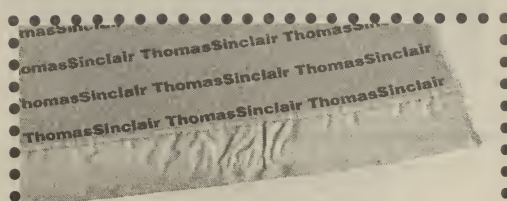




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Who is Sondheim?

by David Bianco

April 26, 1970 (30 years ago this week): The musical play *Company*, with score and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, opens in New York City.

By the age of 21, Stephen Sondheim had met and gotten pointers from both Oscar Hammerstein II and Cole Porter. With luck, connections, and talent, he became one of the greatest lyricists and composers in American musical theater.

Born in New York City on March 22, 1930, Stephen was the only child of Herbert and "Foxy" Sondheim, who both worked in the garment industry. His parents' divorce in 1941 inadvertently set the boy on his career path in musical theater.

Foxy used her divorce settlement to buy a farm in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and moved herself and her son there. Famed songwriter Oscar Hammerstein II and his family lived nearby, and Stephen quickly became a fixture in their household.

Hammerstein was at the peak of his Broadway career, and the young Sondheim began consciously emulating his famous neighbor. He even wrote a musical play, but Hammerstein dashed his Broadway dreams when he read the teenager's work. "If you want to know why it's terrible, I'll tell you," Hammerstein said, launching a relationship of master and apprentice that lasted until

the older man's death in 1960.

At Williams College, Sondheim wrote another musical, *All that Glitters*. His drama professor knew Cole Porter, who agreed to listen to the score. Sondheim recalled that the composer "would come to the piano ... and say, 'Wouldn't that sound a little better that way?'"

During college, Sondheim took a summer job as the office boy for Hammerstein's *Allegro*, a highly innovative play that flopped. "It was the seminal influence on my life," Sondheim claimed, and the reason he was drawn to doing adventurous, experimental work throughout his career.

In the mid-1950s, Sondheim became friendly with Arthur Laurents, who was working on the book of a new play, a modern retelling of the Romeo and Juliet story, with music by Leonard Bernstein and choreography by Jerome Robbins. Bernstein needed a lyricist and offered Sondheim the job.

West Side Story (1957) was a critical hit, and opportunities flew Sondheim's way. Laurents wanted him as both composer and lyricist for a new musical about stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, but the star, Ethel Merman, didn't want an unproven composer. Jule Styne was enlisted for the music, and Sondheim was offered the job of lyricist.

For further reading

Secret, Meryle. *Stephen Sondheim: A Life* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1998).

Rich, Frank. "Conversations with Sondheim." *New York Times Magazine*, March 12, 2000.

Zadan, Craig. *Sondheim & Co.*, 2nd ed. (Nick Hearn Books, 1990).

Gypsy (1959) was the last play for which Sondheim wrote lyrics without also composing the music. A string of critical and popular successes followed, each with increasingly complex and innovative music and lyrics: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1962), *Company* (1970), *Follies* (1971), *A Little Night Music* (1973), *Sweeney Todd* (1979), *Sunday in the Park with George* (1984), *Into the Woods* (1987), and *Passion* (1994).

Throughout most of his astonishing career, Sondheim's private life remained an enigma. In fact,

Sondheim began questioning his sexuality in college, when he realized that there

was "something different" about him. Men made passes at him when he first came to New York after graduation, but it took a while before he actually had sex with another man. "I was sexually very late blooming," he said.

His first long-term relationship began late in life, with a younger man named Peter Jones, whom he met in 1991. The two eventually lived together and exchanged wedding rings (but Jones has since moved out). Finally, in an authorized biography published in 1998, Sondheim came out publicly as gay.

Now in his 70s, Sondheim is still a force in musical theater. His next play (with the working title *Wise Guys*) is about two enterprising brothers. Though the lead character in *Company* was a 30-something bachelor, *Wise Guys* is Sondheim's first play with a bona fide gay character. ▼

David Bianco is the author of *Gay Essentials* (Alyson Publications), a collection of his history columns. He can be reached at DaveBianco@aol.com. For more Past Out, visit www.planetout.com.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Two-armed freak show

by Jane Warner

Bank of America, 501 Castro, April 21, 5:05 p.m.: A man approached a teller and handed him a note which read, "Calmly give me all your money. I have a gun." The teller, afraid for his safety, yelled out, "Robbery!" The suspect panicked and tried to run out of the bank. A customer grabbed him, but the suspect broke free, hitting the glass door with his body and shattering it. Described as a white male, 40-45 years old, 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighing 150 pounds, wearing a black beanie cap, blue denim jacket, black jeans, and carrying a dark backpack, the robber fled the bank without any money. A search of the area by police was unsuccessful.



times with the racket before driving off eastbound on Market. The suspect is described as a white female, 6 feet tall, weighing 200 pounds, with blond hair, driving a black convertible Porsche Boxster with California plates.

Like old times

Dolores Street Café, 501 Dolores, April 20, 11:50 a.m.: A man reported he was assaulted by his ex-boyfriend who approached him in the café and started to harass him. The man told police he left the café but his ex followed him, screaming "I love you, I love you!" When the victim didn't

respond, the suspect spit in his face and punched him five to six times.

Sour fruit

600 block of Noe, April 17, 11:30 p.m.: A man reported that while walking southbound on Noe, a man ran up from behind him and jumped on his back. Both men fell to the sidewalk and a struggle ensued. The suspect punched and kicked the victim and grabbed the gold watch off his wrist, but the victim was able to grab the watch back after striking the suspect several times. The suspect gave up and ran eastbound on 19th screaming, "You fucking faggot." The suspect is described as a white male, 20-25 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 180 pounds, wearing dark clothing. ▼

Mora takes deal

◀ page 1

re-election campaign last fall, Hallinan said his office would retry the case.

People from the LGBT community expressed anger over the settlement. Representatives from Community United Against Violence said that it while it seemed unlikely a retrial would find Mora guilty of murder, the compromise could have been for first-degree manslaughter rather than involuntary manslaughter.

"The DA's office tried this case so passionately," said CUAV's Tina D'Elia. "So the lesson here is that just because someone is guilty doesn't mean they will do time.

And I guess we have to ask, 'Would this settlement have happened if any other person — say, a star athlete — was killed?'"

Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano told the B.A.R. that his office received numerous calls from constituents, and he may call for a hearing.

"This is smelling like Dan White all over again," Ammiano said, referring to the convicted killer of former Supervisor Harvey Milk, who also received a light sentence due to the infamous "Twinkie defense," that he was bingeing on junk food.

"People are furious," said Ammiano.

Local activists have planned a demonstration for this Sunday, April 30 at 3 p.m. at Harvey Milk Plaza. ▼

Volley girl

16th and Market, April 22, 3:10 p.m.: The driver of a white Sonoma pickup truck told police that while approaching the intersection of Market and 16th, a black Porsche convertible cut in front of him, nearly hitting his bumper. His friend in the passenger seat got out, approached the driver of the Porsche, and threw soda on her. Angry, the woman exited her car, retrieved a tennis racket from her trunk, walked over to the pickup and smashed the window with an overhand serve. She then struck the soda-throwing friend several

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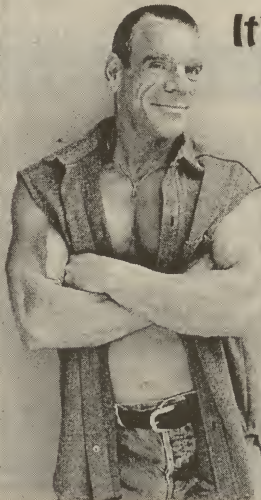
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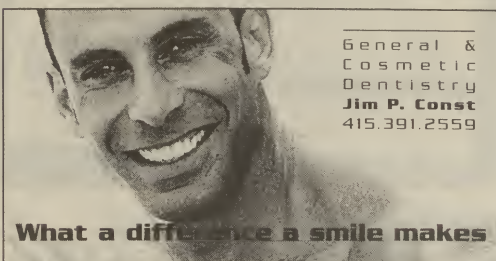
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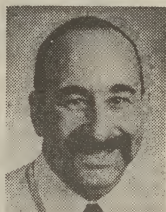
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Top 10 reasons to go to the Millennium March

by Michael E. Armentrout

The following is a list of reasons members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities should attend the Millennium March on Washington, which takes place this Sunday, April 30.

10. Earlier marches on Washington, in 1979, 1987, and 1993, had platforms that outlined the demands of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, which would bring an end to our ostracization in society and our second-class citizenship.

Sadly, while we can point to many symbols of progress in our struggle for justice and equality, these same civil rights are still denied to us, in spite of their being guaranteed under the United States Constitution.

9. In 1990, I experienced anti-gay job discrimination firsthand when I was ousted by a former employee while in the midst of a promotion. My promotion was withdrawn and I was demoted out of my management career track, even though my company had a policy of non-discrimination. I will march in Washington until Congress passes the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

8. While the government of the United States is intended to pro-

vide for fair and equitable treatment of all citizens, it meddles in our personal lives by mandating that our domestic relationships are not valid. Our adoptive rights are under assault, and we are barred from more than 1,000 benefits afforded other Americans who are allowed, by law, to marry and have a higher level of freedom and a higher status of citizenship as a result. Notably, voters in California have just passed a ballot proposition designed to affirm that state's discrimination against its gay citizens, and the state of

Utah has just revoked our rights to adopt children. I will

march on Washington because oppression and discrimination are alive and well in America.

7. The scourge of HIV/AIDS is far from being eradicated. Still today, there exists a common view that gay people deserve the horrors of AIDS that has led to millions of deaths around the globe. Some members of Congress use AIDS as a political wedge to assault gay citizens and threaten to curtail federal funding, which helps to relieve the misery and suffering from AIDS, and which provides research to find a cure to this deadly virus. I will march on Washington to demand a cure.

6. Gay people are people of faith. We must march to authenticate our religious beliefs and our right to practice our religion without fear of reprisal from our government or from any citizen. We must not be forced to accept a second-class status under a moral and ethical code that diminishes our religious experience or our inalienable right to our own personal faith without interference.

5. There is no place in America that is better for me to exercise my right to free speech, which is guaranteed under the Constitution.

The National Mall, spread out before the United States Capitol, is the one, best place to show America the truth about GLBT people and to demand that we be treated fairly. On April 30, I will once again come to the "most political patch of grass" in the nation to declare that I will not cease my quest for justice and equality until I enjoy each and every right and responsibility already possessed by the rest of the American people.

4. At this amazing and exciting dawn of a new millennium, our world is dynamic and more accessible, thanks to technology and cultural and economic exchange on a global level. For the first time ever, the entire world will be able to witness this great civil rights march as it happens, thanks to the Internet and high-speed telecommunications. The world will be watching us on April 30, as we demonstrate our plight, with honesty and integrity. The face of gay America will be seen as it has never been seen before.

3. Over the past eight years, the president of the United States, along with his entire administration, has brought GLBT issues to a higher forum for discourse and progress in the nation. Some of the candidates for president have further elevated the national conversation around the struggle for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.

2. In more than 200 years of democracy in this glorious nation, we have set an example to the rest of the world on how to self-govern and enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As a nation, we have not yet perfected our democracy. I will march on April 30 to seek and demand equality. I will march to achieve the right to enjoy economic and cultural prosperity and the American dream. I will march to ensure that Ameri-

page 17 ►



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And now, a word from our sponsors

by Billy Hileman

For two years, critics of the Millennium March on Washington have continued to protest how the upcoming April 30 event has been organized. The rally that will take place on the Washington Mall is just beginning to get significant attention in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender press. Many are just now wondering why MMOW critics, like the Ad Hoc Committee for an Open Process, continue to oppose an event that is clearly not going to be canceled. In fact, the efforts of the critics along with other factors are certain to have a dampening effect on the turnout for the event—undoubtedly to the delight of right-wing religious wackos like Pat Robertson.

Why does the criticism continue? Here are the top five reasons this event should not be supported by the LGBT communities:

1) the MMOW was not called by our community, instead a small group of people decide where, when, and under what banner we should march;

2) the MMOW has refused to open its financial records to the community—MMOW leaders are annoyed by requests for financial disclosure and emphatically state they will not release the information until long after April 30;

3) the MMOW has not been financially supported by the community and is committed to several corporate sponsors. In 1993 the MMOW stage communicated the civil rights message of the event, "A Simple Matter of Justice," with a giant banner on scaffolding to the left of the stage. In 2000 you will see, the *Advocate*, PlanetOut, and United Airlines logos around or

over the stage. This is a profound and unprecedented sellout of civil rights. The reason your stage will be used for corporate promotion—"We have obligations to our sponsors," said MMOW director Diane Hardy-Garcia. More than 90 percent of the 1993 revenue was obtained from individual donations (\$10, \$20, \$30) and merchandise sales; 1993 belonged to you, MMOW belongs to United Airlines, PlanetOut, and the *Advocate*;

4) the MMOW claims to represent a diverse group of people, but it doesn't. The MMOW board

touts 50 percent representation of

people of color, but when it comes time to make decisions, all that is needed is a quorum of the board. Neither race nor gender factor into the quorum equation. Often the majority present at MMOW board meetings is a majority of men and a majority of white people. In 1993, 50 percent people of color and gender parity meant who makes the decisions, not who is promoted on a Web site;

5) the MMOW has not been able to communicate why the LGBT communities should engage in a mass mobilization against their government. Of course there may be good reasons. Why can't they say, "We demand passage of a LGBT civil rights bill?" If we don't have a list of demands of the U.S. government, then why are we going to Washington?

This fifth reason not to march is perhaps the most important. MMOW board members have inexplicably hidden their "working vision" from the community. It is not on their Web site. It is not in their literature. MMOW has not made it public via a press release. If you want it, you may be able to get it by e-mailing MMOW's

media director Corri Planck.

The "working vision" has a bizarre history and is hardly a blueprint for building a consensus behind a set of reasons to protest your government. The process began in January 1999 when the *Washington Blade* reported that the MMOW would conduct a survey. "We'll be asking people for their input on where the movement should go and what they think are the most important issues for this march," then-MMOW board member Hardy-Garcia told the *Blade*.

However, the survey did not materialize until it was refashioned into the MMOW platform ballot and announced at a April 30, 1999 news conference. The ballot contained 13 vague topics and asked people to pick five. The topics were: Hate Crimes Legislation; Right To Marry; Non-Discrimination in Employment; Right To Serve Our Country; Lesbian Health Issues; AIDS/HIV Issues; Child Custody and Adoption Rights; GLBT Aging Issues; Immigration Rights; GLBT Youth Issues; Overturning Anti-GLBT Laws; Right To Privacy/Choice; GLBT Global Issues; and Other.

Critics charged that the data collected would be skewed along class and race lines because most of it would be collected over the Internet. Critics also pointed out that for the first time a national LGBT

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Office space available at LGBT Comm. Center

by Terry Beswick

To the casual observer, it may seem as though there hasn't been much progress since last October's mayoral groundbreaking for the new Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center to be erected at 1800 Market Street. But organizers report that while there have been some "typical" construction delays, a grand opening is anticipated in time for next year's pride season — in June 2001.

Though the ribbon-cutting is over a year away, the feeding frenzy has already begun among community organizations hoping to lay claim to 11 small office spaces in the center, designed as somewhat of a post-modern/Victorian hybrid. Ranging in size from 75 to 300 square feet, the offices may be leased by virtually any kind of community group with LGBT leanings, and may be used for administrative purposes, or walk-in client services.

But first they need the center's board of directors on their side.

This Tuesday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m., the Community Center Project will hold a public meeting to inform interested parties about the selection process that will be used to award the 11 office space leases to competing community organizations. Applications for spaces also will be accepted at the



Not much has changed with the Community Center, but work has started.

meeting, which takes place at the Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco at 150 Eureka Street.

Until a market analysis is complete sometime in the next month, a per-square-foot asking price has not been set for the offices. CCP board member and spokesman Dana Van Gorder noted that while office space rents in newly constructed buildings tend to run higher than the going market rate for other buildings in the surrounding area, the nonprofit CCP doesn't plan to gouge community groups for the maximum rent the

booming economy will support.

"I don't think we'll be doing that," he said.

The renovation of the old Fallon Building at the intersection of Market, Waller, and Octavia streets — and construction of a much larger, post-modern steel-and-glass building adjoining it — brings the combined square footage for the center to about 47,000.

According to Van Gorder, none of the 11 offices intended for LGBT community groups have been previously reserved. The

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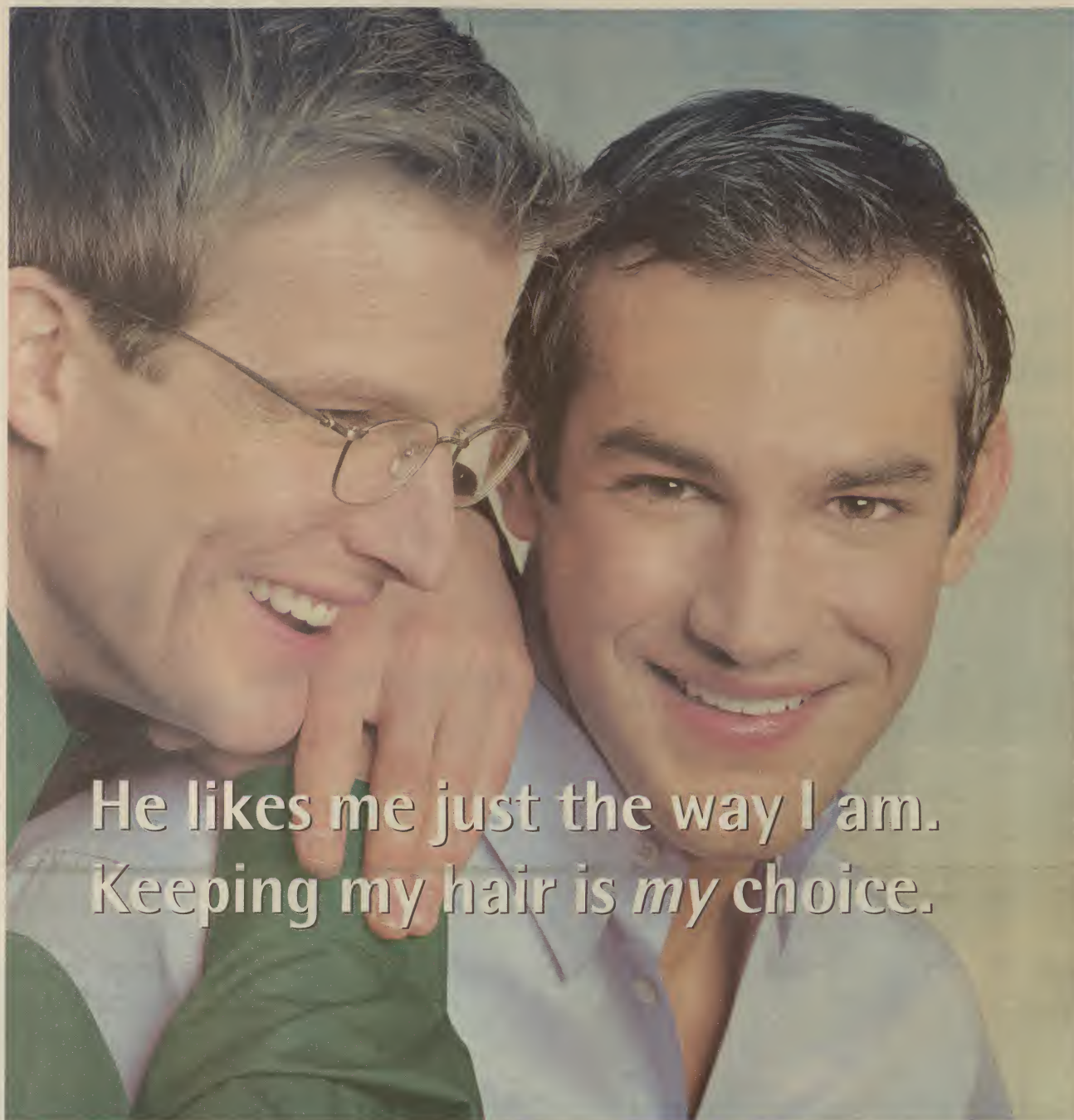
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PROPECIA is for men only. Women who are or may potentially be pregnant must not use PROPECIA because of the risk that the active ingredient may cause a specific kind of birth defect. (See accompanying Patient Product Information for details.) Likewise, they should avoid handling the tablets when they're crushed or broken. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

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Please read this leaflet before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medicine and at regular checkups.

What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area. PROPECIA is for use by **MEN ONLY** and should **NOT** be used by women or children.

What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s. Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. All men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel® Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
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In general use, the following have been reported infrequently: allergic reactions including rash, itching, hives and swelling of the lips and face; problems with ejaculation; breast tenderness and enlargement; and testicular pain.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual side effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

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Marriage ballot

◀ page 4

ered "less than 100,000 signatures" in its first attempt.

Henning said that CaSSM hopes to raise \$1 million and recruit 10,000 volunteers for its second signature gathering effort, and will form a separate non-profit foundation to educate the

public about same-sex marriage.

The proposed initiative would have allowed same-sex couples to obtain a civil marriage in California, though it did not require any church or religious organization to perform same-sex marriages.

Henning indicated that while the ultimate goal of attaining the option of civil marriage for same-sex couples is not negotiable, this time the group will try to develop some consensus within the gay and lesbian community about tactics and strategy.

CaSSM will have a chance to explain that strategy soon, as the group plans to apply for some of the \$250,000 left over from the No on 22/No on Knight campaign, which has set up a small committee through the Horizons Foundation to dole out the money for projects designed to achieve equality for same-sex relationships. The No on 22 campaign had not been supportive of CaSSM's signature drive, seeing it as competition for community support, and an unwise distraction.

As it turned out, of course, CaSSM's drive was little more than a blip on the radar during the last election cycle, and likely had little appreciable effect on Proposition 22's outcome.

"We're very much aware of the



Tom Henning

events after Proposition 22 that there's a lot of work that needs to go on within the community," said Henning, 35, a San Francisco schoolteacher. ▼

For more information on the signature drive, visit www.samesexmarriage.org.

Against march

◀ page 13

march would not explicitly address the issue of racism. MMOW board members bristled at the criticism and called the critics racist.

Then, in a December 10, 1999 *Blade* article, MMOW board members revealed they weren't bound to the results of the platform balloting process. MMOW board co-chair Donna Red Wing told the *Blade*, "The Internet really does reach a vast constituency ... But we decided that we needed to make a much more aggressive outreach to people of color and women." The top five vote-getters did not include racial justice issues (because they weren't on the ballot) or "Right To Privacy/Choice."

So, MMOW board members added language about racial justice and privacy. However, they dropped the word "choice." For the first time, an event touted as a national civil rights march by and for our community will not address the issue of reproductive freedom. Then again, it isn't really addressing any issues.

The MMOW is not the fourth national mobilization for the rights of LGBT people. It was not called by our community. It is not accountable to our community. It is obligated to corporations, not to individuals. It does not represent our community. It demands nothing from our government. History should not record the MMOW in the same vein as the 1979, 1987, and 1993 MOWs.

When deciding whether or not to go to the MMOW remember, if this "event in search of a purpose" achieves reasonable numbers, then sometime in the future a small group of people may just try to do this again. The processes by which we work together are more important than what Pat Robertson thinks or does. ▼

Billy Hileman was a national co-chair and treasurer of the 1993 March On Washington. He is the publisher of the *Planet Q* newspaper in Pittsburgh.

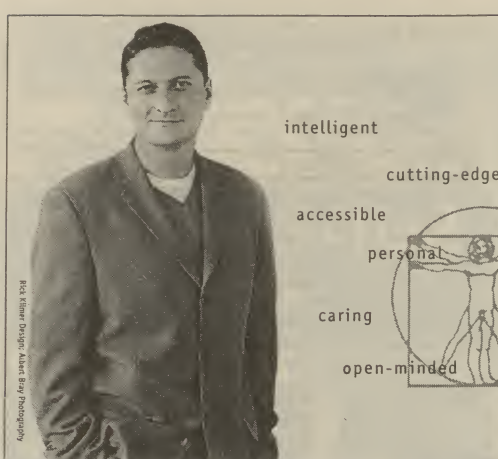
For march

◀ page 12

ca's future will be brighter and that her people will continue to live in peace, with justice and freedom.

1. America's future will be blessed with the rich and glorious generations to come. If I must live my life in the struggle for equal rights, so that future generations will be free from oppression and discrimination, then that is what I shall do. I will march so they will not have to march. The children in my family, along with all children of the world, must know a better America than the nation we now inhabit. I will march on April 30 in service to this great nation, so that tomorrow can be spent building an even better world for all humanity. ▼

Michael E. Armentrout is an activist in North Carolina and a member of the Millennium March on Washington Board of Directors.



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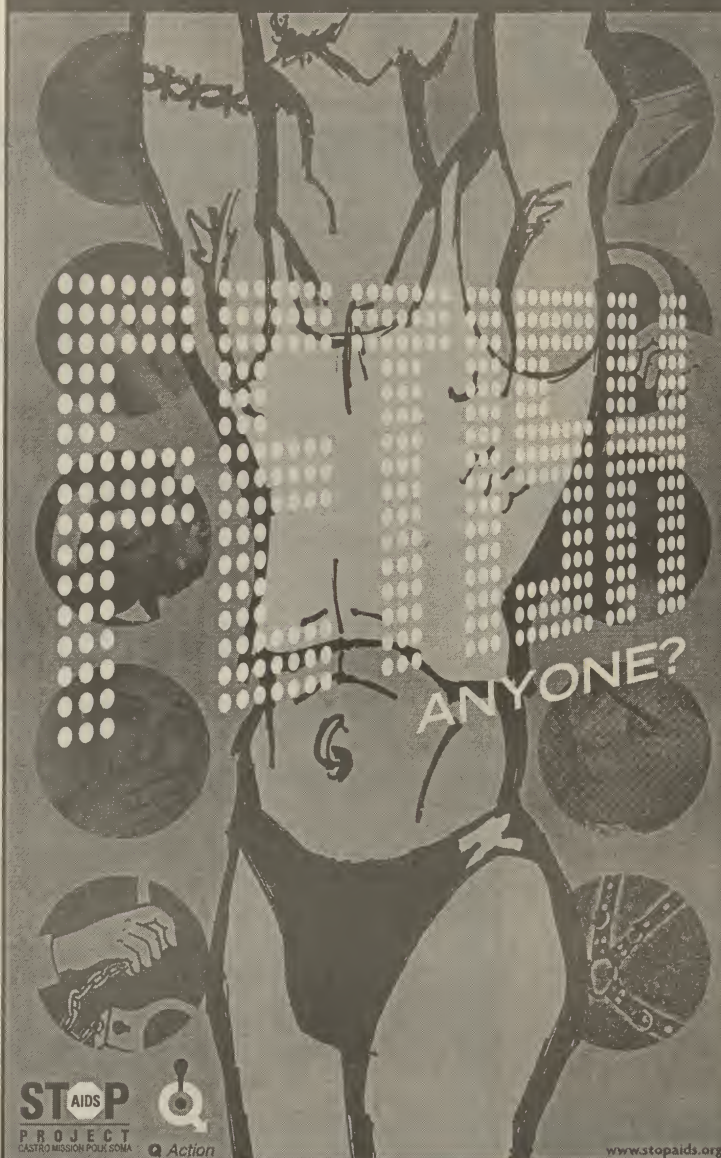
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Supreme Court hears Scout case

by Bob Roeher

The U.S. Supreme Court was packed Wednesday, April 26, the last day for oral arguments in this term. The lead case was *Boy Scouts of America v. James Dale*. It sought to overturn the unanimous decision of the New Jersey Supreme Court that the organization may not discriminate against gays.

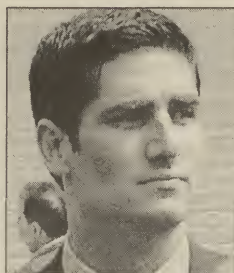
Little more than a sentence was out of the mouth of Boy Scout attorney George A. Davidson before the justices began peppering him with questions. "I don't understand the policy," said Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. "It seems to me like, 'don't ask, don't tell.'"

Davidson explained that because the organization was "so closely identified with moral values" it simply would not do to have an openly avowed homosexual as a leader. Scouts recite the scout pledge at virtually every event and in it they swear to be "morally straight."

"And a homosexual cannot fit that definition?" asked Justice Antonin Scalia. "That is correct," replied Davidson.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor found the debate "a little confusing." She asked whether a heterosexual who espouses support of gays would be excluded. Davidson said it was permissible for him to advocate "to change the policy," but not to promote the morality of the issue.

Would cohabiting unmarried heterosexuals also be excluded under the phrase "morally straight," asked Justice Ginsburg. Davidson said he knew of no in-



James Dale

stances where the policy was applied to that situation.

Justices Anthony Kennedy and David Souter pressed as to whether the Boy Scouts had any written policy regarding homosexuals or homosexuality. Not really, there is no mention in the official manuals.

Davidson tried to slip into the area of conduct via the subject of child abuse. Justice O'Connor quickly corrected, "But abuse is not alleged here." "No," said Davidson.

In subsequent discussion Davidson seemed curiously unconcerned with closeted homosexuals or with homosexual acts. "If conduct is not relevant, then why is openness so important?" asked Justice Souter.

Because "that person would not be an effective role model," said Davidson.

The Boy Scouts' attorney repeatedly came back to the Hurley decision, where the court ruled unanimously that the Boston parade was "speech" and gay groups could not impose themselves upon that speech.

But even Justice Scalia was not buying that argument. Dale's "public persona" is different from what they decided in the Hurley case, Scalia said.

The justices pressed Evan Wolfson with equal vigor. The attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has represented Dale throughout the appeals process.

Wouldn't the New Jersey law preclude a gay and lesbian organization from excluding heterosexuals, asked Justice O'Connor. "If it were a public accommodation open to all, then yes," said Wolfson.

Justice Stephen Breyer sought to know how they could determine if being "anti-gay" is fundamental or "core" to the Boy Scouts. He said a peripheral principle added to virtually any organization's purpose "could eviscerate all civil rights laws."

Wolfson said the New Jersey court "looked to the record" and did not find that at the core of what it is to be a Boy Scout. Current practices "do not require scout leaders to inveigle against homosexuals."

Would the case be different if the Boy Scouts amended its literature, asked Justice Scalia. Wolfson conceded that the case would be different, perhaps stronger, but that was not the issue before the court.

Outside the court building, both sides stated their pleasure with the way arguments went.

"I do this because I care about the scouting program," said Dale. To him, morally straight means the same thing to him today as it did when he first joined: "To respect and defend the rights of all people, to be honest and open in their relationships with all people." ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Pot ID cards

◀ page 1

ijuana dispensary on Divisadero Street with an average of about 150 customers every day, the protesters felt betrayed. They and their representatives had provided key moral support for the legislation, had been at the table with DPH, the San Francisco Police Department, and other city officials when the legislation was drafted, and now felt excluded from the department's planning for the ID program.

"This breaks the trust with the cannabis community," said Wayne Justmann. "That legislation has not been followed."

"We have an opportunity to ignore it entirely and set up our own programs."

Managing to put a happy face on a rather unhappy situation, San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno adroitly commented on the protest: "I think it just expresses an eagerness to get this up and running."

And indeed, many of the protesters' signs on Thursday flatly announced, "I'm here for my medical cannabis user ID card."

But the focus of the familiar sing-song chant, "What do we want? Access! When do we want it? Now!" at the DPH protest was a demand not for immediate access to the ID cards, and certainly not for marijuana, but rather for participation in the city's ongoing planning for the ID card program.

Following the lead of a few other California municipalities

with similar programs, San Francisco's photo ID system will give police the ability to differentiate between bona fide doctor-approved medical cannabis users and garden-variety self-medicating pot heads — thereby sparing the card-carrying smokers from unnecessary harassment, seizure of their medicine, possible arrest, and even prosecution.

"We should be sitting in right now on discussions on how this program would be implemented," said Justmann, executive director of the Patients' Resource Center.

Leno noted that he had previously scheduled a May 11 hearing of the board's Public Health and Environment Committee "to bring everyone together and flush out where we are right now." DPH is expected to reveal detailed information on the ID card program at the hearing, Leno said, as well as a specific schedule for implementation.

"I hope that people come to the hearing and are pleased with what they hear," said DPH official Anne Kronenberg.

The Patients' Resource Center is just one of several marijuana buyers clubs in San Francisco that operate above-ground, in many

respects like any other retail business. Most clubs had supported Leno's legislation, with the exception of the anarchic ACT UP/San Francisco, which vacillates back and forth on the issue.

Many of the existing clubs continue to express support for the DPH program, and some are less concerned with the nuts-and-bolts of the local ID card implementation, and more concerned with how medical cannabis users could face problems down the line with state and federal authorities.

"What we find at CHAMP [Cannabis Helping Alleviate Medical Problems]," said Sheba, a patient advocate of the second-floor club across from the Safeway at Church and Market streets, "is our local politicians are not the problem, whether that's at the board, or the mayor, or DPH, but we feel the problem is at a state and federal level."

But Justmann said he doesn't know if he supports Leno's DPH program any more, as he doesn't know what it looks like; DPH has not consulted a single medical marijuana dispensary in assembling the technical aspects of the program since the law was signed in mid-March. ▼

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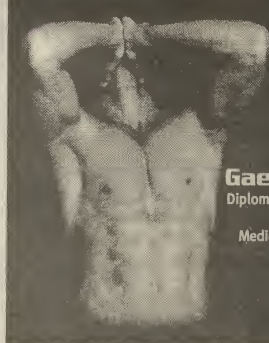
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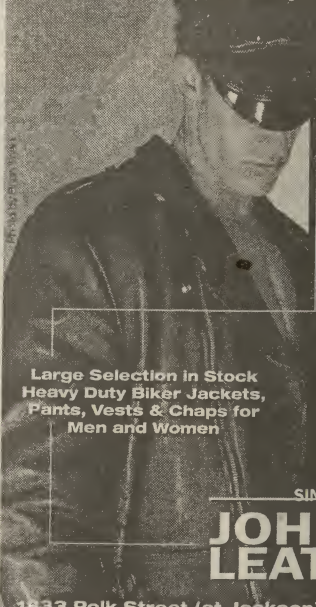
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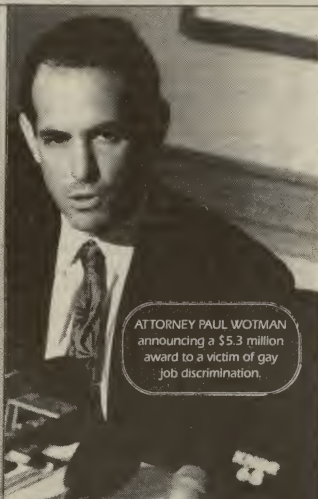
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Fewer HIV physicians accepting HMO patients

by Dan Aiello

An increasing number of HIV-focused medical groups and individual physicians throughout California are quitting health maintenance organization networks because of low financial reimbursement, forcing people with HIV and AIDS to find new physicians less experienced with the illnesses associated with the virus. Of those medical groups remaining with HMOs, HIV-positive patients are experiencing a new form of discrimination created by their physician/HMO contracts: financial resentment from physicians whose livelihoods depend on keeping patients away from hospital stays and other expensive medical services.

California's HIV community is experiencing what may become a national trend.

According to John Keasler, assistant benefits counselor with the San Diego Gay and Lesbian Center's Benefits Clinic, fewer HIV-experienced physicians, including predominantly gay practices, are willing to take HIV-positive patients whose insurer is an HMO. To Keasler and others involved in the AIDS community in San Diego, the business decisions now being made both by the HMOs and by some physicians are disturbing.

"Physicians who've grown rich on their HIV patients are now, by eliminating HMO clients, squeezing them into fewer and fewer medical practices with less HIV experience," stated Keasler. "I'm sorry, but I think they should all find a way to continue taking HMO patients."

Dr. Robert Smith heads the Robert Smith Medical Group, the last private HIV-intensive medical group in San Diego to take HMO patients. The Robert Smith Medical Group ended its contractual relationship with HMOs on December 31, 1999, within months of its acquisition by Los Angeles-based HIV-intensive medical group Pacific Oaks. Pacific Oaks began turning away its HIV-positive HMO patients in 1998.

"We were the last private medical group in San Diego to contract with HMOs," stated Smith, "and, quite frankly, it was against financial advice and because I insisted upon it. But, we were only getting \$12 dollars per month to care for some very sick patients."

HMOs offer medical providers a lump sum of money to care for a patient each month, regardless of how many times that patient visits the physician's office. This is referred to within the medical field as a capitated fee. Preferred provider organizations, or PPOs, as well as MediCal and private insurance, all reimburse physicians on a fee-for-

service basis. Therefore, whether an HMO patient never visits the physician, or visits the physician every day of the month, the doctor receives the same amount of money. For the MediCal or PPO patient, just the opposite is true. Every visit is reimbursable.

"HMOs are set up for healthy patients who never need medical care," said Smith. But in the case of medical practices that are HIV-intensive, every patient requires constant care and monitoring, making HMO business extremely unprofitable. Smith believes that people who remain with HMOs will most likely end up with physicians less experienced with HIV. Although this seems detrimental to the health of the individual, the less-experienced physician will still be able to refer the patients back to physicians who specialize in HIV-related illnesses, Smith said. Keasler, who fights HMO case managers for his clients on a daily basis, maintained that the HMO's approval for such a referral would be rare. Both the patient's new primary physician and the HMO case manager would be "financially reluctant" to make such a referral, explained Keasler.

It is not just the physicians who are trying to "dump" the HIV patient load, said Keasler. New pharmaceutical restrictions imposed by most HMO plans are forcing those individuals with AIDS who can find other care options to take them.

As of January 1, Health Net imposed a \$2,000 annual cap on all non-generic medications. Since nearly all HIV-related meds are patented, and therefore brand name, HIV patients are forced to either leave their HMO, or pay out-of-pocket for these life-saving medications. Unfortunately, because HIV is a preexisting condition, leaving an existing HMO plan is not possible for most HIV-positive individuals. The only option is to become MediCal eligi-

page 23 ►

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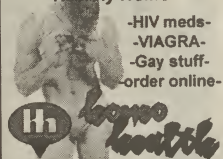
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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

John Bullard

John Bullard lived and died in San Francisco. He came to San Francisco as a young gay man seeking his fame and fortune. He loved San Francisco and was determined to remain here. Although he died poor, living in a Tenderloin hotel, he was content to know that San Francisco was his home.

Like many young men who came to San Francisco, John contracted the HIV virus. He had AIDS, though AIDS did not take his life. He was a long-term survivor of AIDS. Please remember John as a fellow traveler on this earth-bound journey and kindly donate to organizations which help people living with AIDS and that help the poor. Additional donations can be made to Global Peace Now, P.O. Box 170245, San Francisco, CA 94117-0245.

John is survived by his brothers Donald and Jeffrey, his loving parents, Ray and Phyllis, his grandmother, as well as many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. He joins his brother Raymond Lee who died in 1983. They will not be forgotten.

May your journey continue and peace always be yours.

Jack Eichelberger

1939 — 2000



Jack Eichelberger, popular bar owner and long-time waiter at the Olympic Club, passed away April 13 after a lengthy diabetes-related illness. He and his wife Bonnie purchased Old Rick's

Gold Room on Geary Street just off Polk Street nearly three years ago from the late Rick Sauer who ran the bar for many years. A long-time patron of the watering hole, Jack couldn't bear the thought of losing his favorite corner stool when Rick decided to sell the bar to someone who could conceivably change the ambience of the establishment.

The Gold Room has been and will continue to be the site for benefits and fundraisers for various gay community causes which Jack generously supported.

Jack was born November 28, 1939, in Lewiston, Pennsylvania. He moved to San Francisco more than 30 years ago and worked most of those years at the Olympic Club.

In addition to Bonnie, Jack is survived by his sister Jeanie and cousin Jayne.

A celebration of his life will be held Saturday, May 13, at the Gold Room, 939 Geary St., starting at 1 p.m.

Ron Fox

November 18, 1955 — April 21, 2000



Ron was born in Brooklyn, New York, and lived in Fresno, Los Angeles, and Santa Fe before finally settling in San Francisco, the city he dearly loved. A graduate of Fresno State, Ron loved sports with a passion, as well as dancing at Universe and hanging out with the "Breakfast Club" at Cafe Flore. The many friends he leaves behind will never forget his humor, warmth, and loyal loving spirit.

He is survived by his mother, Phyllis, his sister, Gail, his stepfather, Sam, and many devoted friends who were his extended family.

A service for Ron will be held Sun-

day, April 30 at 2 p.m. at the AIDS Memorial Grove, Golden Gate Park. "Letting go is to fear less, and love more."

John Allen Harrison

May 12, 1951 — April 9, 2000



John Allen Harrison slipped peacefully from this life on Sunday, April 9, 2000, succumbing to complications of pneumonia and heart disease. With his devoted partner and soulmate at

his side, John's gentle spirit softly surrendered this existence and passed away.

Finally free after a courageous three-year battle with pulmonary hypertension, John's spirit will live on forever in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. Quick to laugh, extraordinarily compassionate, considerate to all, sympathetic and determined, John was an inspiration. John loved music all of his life and was accomplished both in voice and instrument. John loved animals. John's cherished canine companions Henry and Rags, both adopted from the pound, will always be by his side.

It is bitter irony that he was taken by symptoms of an enlarged heart, as John had the biggest and most loving heart and soul of anyone I have ever known. His infinitely nurturing and forgiving nature allowed us to live a priceless lifetime in our four short years together. His boundless determination was exceeded only by his unending kindness. Loving John (my "Johnny") was an effortless pursuit.

Born 5/12/51 in Pasadena, Texas, he is survived by his partner and best friend, Wyatt Kaelin, by his beloved and loving mother, Margaret Harrison, his dear brother George Kramer, mentor and friend Don Norman, and beloved pets Henry, Sally, Mabel and Emily. He will be missed by all who knew him.

At John's request, there will be no service. For now, his ashes rest peacefully at home surrounded by his teddy bear collection, his spirit forever in my heart.

Jay T. Lubbers



Jay T. Lubbers — brother, lover, respected colleague — passed away on February 10, 2000 in his home in San Francisco after living 17 years with HIV. He died, as he lived, with courage and grace, surrounded by family and friends. He is survived by two sisters, their families, his giant Schnauzer, Odie, and lover, Tom Parks. Jay was raised in and around Tucson, Arizona and lived and worked in the Boston area from 1978 through 1991.

He was the Associate Director, Customer and Technical Services, at Chiron Diagnostics in Emeryville where he established training and customer-service departments in one of the first groups to provide quantitative assays for monitoring levels of virus in patients infected with HIV.

A Renaissance man, Jay also pursued a Masters degree in English Literature at Harvard, was a devout theater

and opera patron, and an avid and knowledgeable collector of American Arts and Crafts pottery.

Jay will be featured in a Hedrick Smith documentary to be seen on PBS in October on HMO health care. His life will be celebrated by family and friends in a memorial service on May 13 at 1 p.m. at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park.

Sig (Sigurd) Olaf Olsen



Our beloved friend Sig (Sigurd) Olaf Olsen died suddenly on April 6, 2000 after suffering a stroke.

Sig was born in New Jersey on June 19, 1944. He joined the Air Force in 1963 after which he followed the sun to California. Always a jet setter, he first worked for National Airlines and then enjoyed a 20 year career with Pan Am, which enabled him to enjoy his favorite pastime, traveling. In sharing his life, he provided many of his friends the opportunity, through a buddy pass, to travel with him on his adventures. Sig also loved convertible cars — a great match for his "top down" personality.

An avid runner, Sig participated in both the San Francisco Frontrunners and the Bay Area Distance Runners. He sometimes planned his travels around competitive marathons in such cities as Stockholm, New York and Amsterdam (Gay Games).

After his Pan Am career, Sig joined the Department of Motor Vehicles. Although his job was mundane, he took pride in doing it well and soon became a supervisor. Sadly, Sig recently attained an early retirement from the DMV so that he could once again enjoy traveling.

More than his grand adventures, Sig was a first-class friend with whom to simply share a cup of coffee, relax in his living room and watch a movie, or play video games. We will miss his caring friendship. He is survived by his sister, Nancy Stellhorn of Moneta, Virginia, and his many friends.

It was Sig's specific request not to have a memorial service. Please remember Sig in your own special way. Sig, we bid you farewell. Teach the other angels in heaven the luxury of flying first class.

Kelly Stroud

October 11, 1957 — March 28, 2000



Our beloved Kelly was taken from us on March 28th. He died peacefully and comfortably at home where he wanted to be, in the company of his birds and his friends Ben and David.

He is survived by his sister Debbie, his brother Danny, his niece Nicole and nephew Michael.

There was no other with a bigger heart and a kinder soul than Kelly. He will remain in our hearts forever and be missed by all who knew him.

There are no memorial services planned. However, it is suggested that donations be made in his name to the San Francisco Department of Animal Care and Control on Harrison Street.



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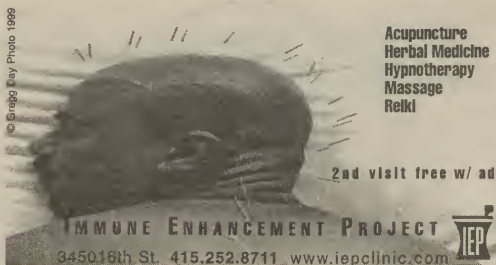
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Disney's gay-bashing

by Jim Provenzano

Here's the plot. Aladdin gets betrayed by Jafar, Hercules by Hades, Tarzan by Clayton, Snow White and Cinderella by the evil queens. The handsome hapless hero(ine) always gets fooled, but wins in the end.

You know the plot. Evil One always gets it in the end, while the heterosexual romance wins out. Most Disney movies are about betrayal.

But they're so gay, you say. Disneyland takes flack for its gay days, and for years allowed it, but is stepping back in that department, if you haven't kept up.

Yeah, they offer domestic partnership. Yeah, they just loooove Elton John, and dogs who play basketball, but who doesn't? I've loved Disney for decades. What kid or former kid hasn't?

The World's Greatest Athlete proved a turning point, inspiring me take up running and tree-climbing at an early age. I also developed a strange attraction to men in loincloths, but that's between me and my therapist.

Now, Disney has been sued, for acting pretty much like one of their own animated nemeses.

Lawyers for the estate of Robert Jahn, a gay former Disney executive who died of AIDS in 1994, have successfully sued Walt Disney Co. for wrongfully pressuring Jahn to relinquish his life insurance, stock options, and other benefits



Hollywoody and Vine: Actual unretouched still from the not-at-all-gay Disney's Tarzan.

on his death bed, under the threat of being exposed for allegedly bribing outside vendors and contractors in kickback schemes.

Declaring a "moral victory" to the Associated Press, Larry Sackey, an attorney representing Jahn's estate, said Disney "shouldn't conduct business like this." Jahn never did wrong, and Disney did, according to a jury of non-Toon Town peers.

Disney is known for less than scrupulous business practices in its recent regimes. Imagining some suits lurching over the bed of a PWA conjures up some of the Mouse Factory's worst villains.

This hurts. This hurts to the core, right down to my Mary Poppins picture puzzle and my Hercules commemorative dinner plates.

But how does the biggest closeted lesbian on the planet, Rosie O'Donnell, talk show host and voice of Tarzan's gorilla pal Terk, feel about it? She dropped her contract with Kmart over guns. What about gays? George W. Bush can claim to "be a better person" after meeting a bunch of us, how does she feel?

How does Brendan Fraser feel? He starred in Disney's *George of the Jungle*, in *Gods and Monsters* (about gay director James Whale), and portrayed a gay man in the Showtime version of the play *Twilight of the Gods*.

How does Tony Goldwyn, who did the voice of Tarzan, but also starred off-Broadway as a gay

rugby player in *The Sum of Us*, feel?

How does Russell Crowe feel? He played gay in the film version of *The Sum of Us*, and a hockey player in the chipper Disney sports comedy *Mystery, Alaska*.

How does Elton John feel? The gay icon raises millions each Oscar night for AIDS, and cuddled up to Ryan White, but no doubt distances himself from such AIDS-phobic office monstrosities committed by Disney execs who've paid him handsomely for *The Lion King* and *Aida*.

How does gay writer Michael Lassell feel? The award-winning poet, who also wrote the book about the Disney production, *Aida*, has often written about crimes against PWAs.

How do the writers of *Mulan*, Disney's Asian cross-dressing epic, feel?

How do all those gay employees feel, who can march as a unit in gay pride parades with mouse hats on, but not mention who they work for?

How do all those gay people who collect Disney toys feel about their collectibles now? Any more ripped off than the millions of suckers who bought phony sports autographed balls?

More important, how would Howard Ashman feel? Ashman wrote the lyrics for the songs of numerous Disney films; *The Little Mermaid*, *The Lion King*, and the non-Disney *Little Shop of Horrors*. He also died of AIDS.

The list of gay and lesbian folk who've worked with and for Disney is in the thousands. Even if I bothered to get all of these people on the phone, and had a seance to meet Howard Ashman again, I'm sure (except for Howard) their response would be an unequivocal, "No comment."

That's what happens when you throw a lot of money in somebody's face.

Are actors and animators supposed to have feelings, or just manufacture them?

Every day, after working hard at my new job, I like to play the computer game version of *Tarzan*. Disney doesn't make it in a Mac version, so I was happy to get a PC, and download the demo version from the Disney Web site. I usually don't play video games, but something about a hunky guy in a loincloth swooshing around on vines ... interests me. Funny that.

I don't know if it'll be so fun anymore. Nor may another viewing of *Mary Poppins*, *Fantasia*, *Son of Flubber*, *Witch Mountain*, *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*, *The*

next page ►

What is compassion?

It is not mere sympathy, or something of pity.

Compassion and caring is a sense of responsibility, wanting to do something and wanting to share with others. We all have a responsibility to shape the future of humanity.

Let us all contribute as much as we can.

—the Fourteenth Dalai Lama



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- Decreases KS-associated swelling

HIVCARE CLINICAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT IS A NON-PROFIT PROGRAM OF SAINT FRANCIS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, 900 HYDE STREET, SAN FRANCISCO. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL MARK BOWERS 415-353-6215.

Correction

The e-mail address to contact Vern with the Bay Blades rowing club is vnu-anez@hewm.com. It was listed incorrectly in the April 20 issue.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

CCP

◀ page 14

CCP did recently convene an invitational meeting, however, for the 21 organizations who had responded favorably to questions about the need for office space at the center, as part of a survey of community interest sent out from the CCP last year. Van Gorder stated that the board is "not focused on those groups" in particular as likely tenants.

The CCP's board of directors plans to form a committee that will make recommendations to the full body on their favored applicants for a lease, which may include arts, cultural, political, social, recreational, or any other kind of group serving LGBT communities in San Francisco.

With the city and county of San Francisco contributing \$6 million, and the state of California kicking in \$1 million more, about \$11.2 of the \$11.9 million budgeted already has been raised for construction of "The Center" — the working title being used by the planners of the as-yet-unnamed structure. About \$2 million more will need to be raised from private sources for furnishings and fixtures; no budget

has yet been published for annual operating expenses.

Van Gorder emphasized that the CCP is hoping that applicants for the office spaces represent the full diversity of San Francisco. Center organizers want a mix of start-up and more established organizations, he said, adding that in selecting tenants, the CCP will consider the applicant organization's mission and representation of the community in terms of age, race, gender, socioeconomic status, recovery, spirituality, and other human services.

As competition is expected to be fierce, some groups might even be encouraged to share the spaces.

In addition to the offices up for lease, the finished project will have 15 variously sized rooms available for LGBT community meetings of all kinds; the CCP also plans to discuss policies on use of these rooms at the May 2 meeting.

The deadline for submitting applications to be a lease-holder for one of the 11 new offices is June 15; the CCP plans to designate the winning tenants by early July. ▼

For more information, call the CCP at (415) 437-2257, or visit www.sfgaycenter.org.

HMO patients

◀ page 20

ble, which is to be or become impoverished.

Ironically, it is the individual with HIV who meets the disability and poverty guidelines for Medi-Cal who has a far greater choice of medical care options and greater access to drugs and specialists than the individual with a private- or Medicare-funded insurance plan.

Keasler jokingly described the HMO clients who are not able to meet Medi-Cal's qualifications as "middle-class poor people." Those individuals who have assets greater than \$2,000 (excluding a home or car), do not qualify for Medi-Cal insurance. Even for those with no worldly possessions, the state will impose a "share-of-cost," deducting any monthly income above \$660. This does not make Medi-Cal an option for many.

Secure Horizons was one of the HMOs in Southern California to cap its brand name pharmaceuticals this year. That leaves only Kaiser and Blue Shield as HMOs offering adequate pharmaceutical coverage. "I am helping clients to re-enroll with Blue Shield," explained Keasler. ▼



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Sports Complex

◀ previous page

Gnomemobile, Darby O'Gill and the Little People, even *The World's Greatest Athlete* or any of those oddly occult, amusingly subversive, sometimes homoerotic, once-childlike and now seemingly-sinister cinematic marvels.

Disney's wormed its way into our lives like DNA. One of my earliest memories is at the New York World's Fair, which opened on the

day I'm writing this, April 22. That's also the birthday of Walt Disney's mom, Flora Call.

Check out your job's life insurance and deathbed policy. See how it'll effect your health. If it's less than magical, clap your hands. See if they believe in fairies. I don't think Disney does anymore.

As if the evils of Paramount, creators of several gay-inclusive films and TV shows, and soon, the awful, evil Dr. Laura's show, weren't enough, now Disney, derisively known by former employ-

ees and outsiders as Mauswitz, a dark play on the Nazi prison camp Auschwitz, is suffering from the same symptoms.

But don't be surprised. Most Disney movies, after all, are about betrayal. ▼


Visit the Society of Disney Haters at <http://www.w0rd.org/sodh/>. Visit moi at <http://sportscomplex.org>.

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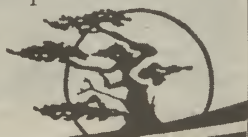


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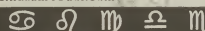
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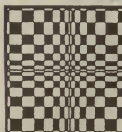
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The Respondents' Conference 1 p.m., 4/12/00,

DHS, 170 Otis, 8th Flr.

PROPOSALS DUE: 5/08/00, 5 p.m. Esther Reyes 415-557-5864

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME: 0204917

The following person have abandoned the
use of the fictitious name known as:
Prisms. Located at: 2380 Market Street,
San Francisco, Ca. 94114. The fictitious
business name referred to above was filed
in the County of San Francisco on:
5/28/96. This business was conducted by:
An individual signed Daryl Ducharme.
APR. 13, 20, 27, MAY 4, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.239826

The following person(s) are doing business
as Prisms. 2380 Market Street, San
Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is
conducted by co-partners signed Daryl
Ducharme and Audrey Tompkins. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact business
under the above listed fictitious business
name or names on: 04/01/00. The statement
was filed with the County Clerk of the City
and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/05/2000
APRIL 13, 20, 27, MAY 4, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.239799

The following person(s) are doing business
as Nutri-Sport. 2275 Market Street, San
Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Phillip
Rennick. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on: N/A.
The statement was filed with the County
Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco,
CA on 04/04/2000
APRIL 13, 20, 27, MAY 4, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.239841

The following person(s) are doing business
as Phillip Laird, Consultant. 349 Teresita
Blvd, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This
business is conducted by an individual
signed Phillip D. Laird. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on: N/A. The statement was filed with
the County Clerk of the City and County of
San Francisco, CA on 04/06/2000
APRIL 13, 20, 27, MAY 4, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.240024

The following person(s) are doing business
as Gary on Geary. 5138 Geary Blvd. San
Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Gary
Bennett Swartzburg. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on: 4/1/2000. The statement was filed
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APRIL 20, 27, MAY 4, 11, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.240007

The following person(s) are doing business
as Nutri-Sport. 2275 Market Street, San
Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Andrew
J. Wysocki. The registrant(s) commenced to
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APRIL 20, 27, MAY 4, 11, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.240067

The following person(s) are doing business
as Nick Trubenbach Design. 1248 Arguello
Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This
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signed Nick Trubenbach. The registrant(s)
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STATEMENT FILE NO.240169

The following person(s) are doing business
as Landis Communications. 1388 Sutter
Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This
business is conducted by a corporation
signed David Landis. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
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APRIL 27, MAY 4, 11, 18, 2000

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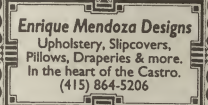


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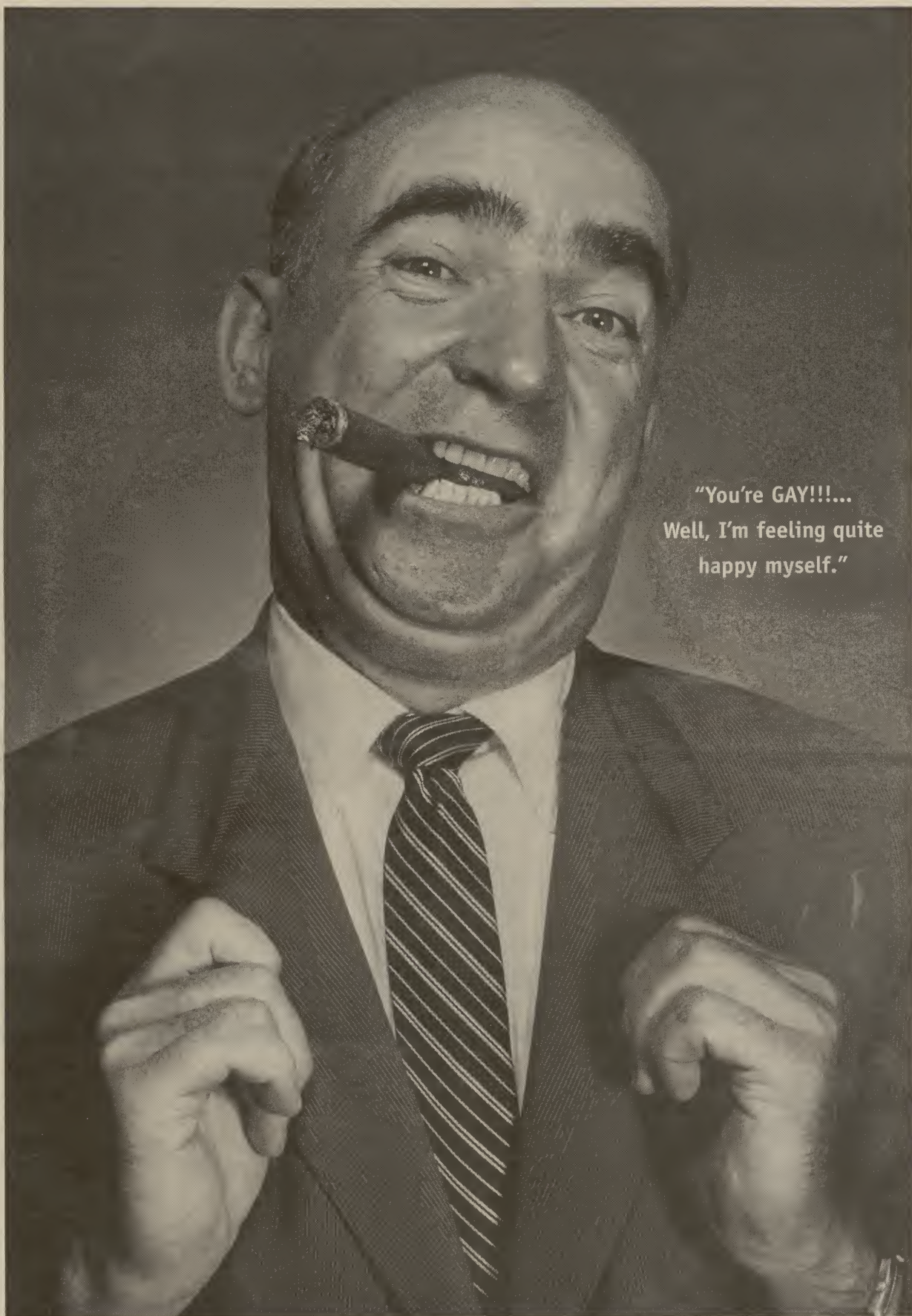
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Never mind the bollocks

Here's the Sex Pistols — in Julian Temple's documentary 'The Filth and the Fury'

page 34

Out in the ensemble

Dancer John Carroll struts his stuff in 'Fosse.'

page 32



Laughing at the ladies

'Funny Ladies: 100 Years of Great Comediennes.'

page 35



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 17 • 27 April 2000

Wilder woman

Edie Adams remembers Billy Wilder, Ernie Kovacs and Rock Hudson

by John Blanco

Over the course of her 50-odd-year career, Edie Adams became famous for her auspicious debuts. On TV, it was in her husband's groundbreaking 1950s sketch comedy series, *The Ernie Kovacs Show*. On Broadway, it was in the hit musical comedy, *Wonderful Town*, in which she was paired with Rosalind Russell. And on film, it was in Billy Wilder's Oscar-winning *The Apartment*, the sophisticated comedy-drama starring Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine. It's the latter that brings her to the Castro Theatre tomorrow night as part of the latest Marc Huestis-produced gala, *A Tribute to Billy Wilder*. The evening includes an interview with Adams, a video greeting from Lemmon, and a screening of a new print of the classic 1960 film.

The 73-year-old singer-actress-comedienne is uniquely qualified to toast Wilder, considering that he was not only her director, but also her neighbor and longtime friend. The funny, dishy Adams talked about Wilder and the making of *The Apartment*, as well as her own life and career — everything from the indignity of playing Daisy Mae in *Li'l Abner* to her studio-concocted romance with Rock Hudson — in a recent interview with the B.A.R.

John Blanco: Billy Wilder was a neighbor of yours, wasn't he?

Edie Adams: We had adjoining beachhouses. He was the guy next door who told my kids not to ride their Big Wheel in his

page 36 ►



Politics, sex and publicity

Sheets in the Wind at the Main Library

by Alex Robertson Textor

Throughout the 20th century, broadsides and posters had a particular significance for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and communities. The relative anonymity of both their production and reception have helped to turn posters and broadsides into a trusted means of communication.

But as GLBT culture has become more mainstream, particularly in places like San Francisco, the role of posters and flyers has hardly diminished. For queer culture, mainstreaming hasn't dissipated the role of posters in publicizing and

documenting public life. If anything, demarginalization has actually encouraged a proliferation of images and uses for queer posters.

Sheets in the Wind: The Poster in the San Francisco GLBT Community explores the significance of posters and flyers for queer community purposes. *Sheets in the Wind* has been installed at the James C. Hormel Center at the Public Library's Main Branch. Curated by Adrienne Fuzee, the new Exhibition Coordinator of the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California/Center for the History of Sexual Diversity, *Sheets in the Wind* features posters, handbills, and postcard-size flyers from the mid-1960s up through the last few years. The exhibit clearly demonstrates that these media are crucial, in an ongoing way, to the existence of public queer culture.

Despite its limited size — it's culled entirely

page 40 ►

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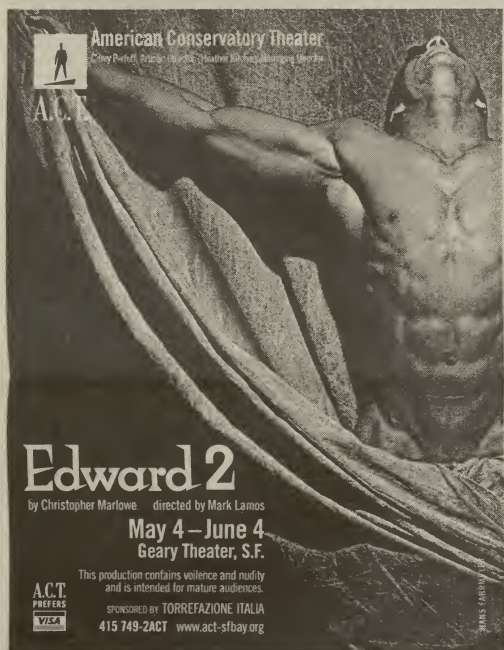


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Check Out BAR Talk on Page 46!
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by Roberto Friedman
and Polly Premier

Take Out There's hand, and we'll lead you swiftly through the opening night hoopla of the 43rd SF International Film Fest last week. Opening night film *The Virgin Suicides* director **Sophia Coppola** got a big hand at the Castro, but an even bigger one went to her beau, *Being John Malkovich* director **Spike Jonze**, introduced from the audience. Applause line: Corporate sponsorship is up 60%! Put your hands together for that — it means 60% more people to thank.

Virgin was very blonde and very moist, basically a horny straight teenage boy's wet dream, as translated by La Sophia. Set in the leafy suburb of Grosse Pointe, Mich., aka *shiksa* heaven. Sample line: "Peach schnapps — babes love it." Yes, **Kirsten Dunst** is great as slutty virgin Lux, and why go on about studly beaut **Josh Hartnett** when a degraded reproduction will suffice?

Halfway through, we realized we were in the wrong sexual fantasy and high-tailed it out there, and over to the afterparty at the Regency, where the music and flower decal decor were, like the film, caught in some sort of weird '70s flashback. The '70s: We lived through it, darlings, and sometimes, once is very much enough!

Clever DJ **Chris Dadzitis** in the basement "Sutter Room" mixed **Martin Luther King, Jr.**'s "I Have a Dream" speech with the disco anthem "I Feel Love." Yup,



Kirsten Dunst and Josh Hartnett in Sofia Coppola's *The Virgin Suicides*.

MLK, Jr. & **Donna Summer**, partners in integrity, together again!

Niebaum-Coppola was serving up samples of a new wine made for the occasion, called *Sofia*. Earlier, Fest Artistic Director **Peter Scarlet** had proclaimed, "Even if her name were *Sofia Smith*," they'd be showing her film opening night. (Insert your own skeptical comment here.)

As for the newly refurbished Regency Building, with its Grand Ballroom and upstairs Lodge, it's kinda swank and kinda spooky.

We kept expecting to see **Jack Nicholson** lurking around every bend, or those scary *Shining* twins: "Come play with us, Danny!"

Personal angle: We'd hoped to bump into VS author **Jeffrey Eugenides** to pass on congrats; we were in the Stanford writers program with him back in the '80s — a truly scary decade. We fondly recall taking Mr. Eugenides along on an outing to the Marin nude beach Red Rocks. Out There shared a doobie with a pal and proceeded to seriously sun-worship, chatting as the spirit moved us. Complained Jeffrey: "This is the slowest conversation I've ever heard!"

SF Internat'l Film Fest continues through May 4. Closing night film is director **Michael Almereyda**'s contempo *Hamlet*. Info: 931-FILM.

Striking out

Apparently they didn't call him "the slugger" without reason. Re-

lease of the new **Joe DiMaggio** biography isn't due until October, but word on the street is that our hometown hero finally gets exposed, warts and all. Don't be surprised if you learn that Joe's divorce from blonde bombshell **Marilyn Monroe** happened at the insistence of 20th Century Fox.

The old-world Italian DiMaggio was reportedly obsessively jealous of his new bride, who was rapidly ascending to the title of the world's greatest sex symbol. Rumor is that his jealousy

took the form of physical abuse toward MM, and that the star's studio (wanting to protect its investment) said "the slugger," despite his reportedly prodigious endowment, was out: O-U-T. Black eyes and fat lips have a tendency to show up on camera. Ultimately, the lady was forgiving. But DiMaggio's guilt over the behavior that ruined his marriage dogged him to the end of his life.

Hole in one

Like ball-players, golfers are not usually known for their exquisite good taste, and let's face it, that's putting it kindly. Frankly, most golf clothes, like most Republicans, are truly hideous. The exception to the rule is apparently **David Duval**, the No. 2 golfer in the world. As displayed in the recent Masters tournament in Atlanta, Duval's blonde, lean form looked sleek and supple in his playclothes, from the flattering Mizuno mock-turtleneck jersey to the chic Oakley wraparounds (even if they weren't paying him a six-figure endorsement fee, he told the sports press, he'd still wear 'em.) We know at least one rabid Duvalaholic. Is there a secret Dave Duval admirer's club out there, for fans who like the look of his birdie? We're just asking.

Yea Lea

Lovers of a good belly laugh should look out this month for *Lea's Book of Rules for the World*, great dyke comic and actor **Lea DeLaria**'s hilarious contribution to the world of Dell Trade Paperbacks (with **Maggie Cassella**). DeLaria discards the Ten Commandments as largely outdated, and offers up her own rules of moral conduct, including modern-day commandment number nine, "Thou shalt not fuck too much with thy neighbor's:

"A. Phone Machine. Which means, asshole, you don't call someone's house and repeat over and over, 'I know you're there. Pick up, pick up, pick up,' like a parrot on crystal meth ...

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Fabulous invalid

'The Cripple of Inishmaan'

by Richard Dodds

Have the worlds that playwright Martin McDonagh creates ever existed? Does it matter?

This young firebrand writes confidently and evocatively about Ireland although he was born and reared in London, and knows the motherland mainly from summer vacations. As is usually the case, imagination can be more valuable to artists than facts.

"I'm a storyteller," McDonagh told *Time* magazine in 1998. "I believe in making things up."

Most audiences' first encounter with McDonagh has been with the lean-and-mean *Beauty Queen of Lenane*, but it is *The Cripple of Inishmaan* that displays this cheeky storyteller at full tilt. TheatreWorks in Mountain View is offering the area debut of this deliciously dark comedy in a bang-up production that won't easily slip from memory.

McDonagh conjures up a tiny island village in 1936 where the stir-crazy residents get by on gossip, orneriness, and the comforting straightjackets of their roles on Inishmaan. Their routine is joyously upset when a documentary filmmaker from America arrives on a neighboring island, and boatloads of villagers trek over, hoping that somehow they'll end up in Hollywood. One actually does, though he is considered by one and all the

least likely to succeed.

Cripple Billy is the one that Hollywood wants, to the horror of the villagers, who are both jealous and unnerved. Everyone—even a 17-year-old with a deformed arm and leg—has a role in this society where pity and ridicule offer a form of entertainment.

"Poor Billy'll never get kissed, unless it was by a blind girl," says one of his adoptive aunts. "A blind girl or a backward girl," chimes in the other auntie. And these are the nicer folks.

Even Billy, who complacently accepts most of the abuse, has a tongue on him. When he asks the town's professional gossip, a blowhard named Johnnypateenmike, to stop calling him Cripple Billy, he says, "Well, do I go calling you 'Johnnypateenmike' with news that's so boring that it'd bore the head off a dead bee?"

McDonagh paints his people with a telling detail that extends to their names and even to the candy bars they relish. The plot is filled with little suspense-builders and twists, sometimes falling in the patterns of a vaudeville routine.

Director Robert Kelley's production captures the special flavor of the piece, finding both big laughs as well as few tears. The cast is clearly at home with these characters that skirt outrageousness without ever quite crossing the line.

This terrific lot is made up of Travis Engle as Cripple Billy,



Phoebe Moyer and Elizabeth Benedict in *The Cripple of Inishmaan*

Phoebe Moyer and Elizabeth Benedict as his aunts, Edward Sarafian as Johnnypateenmike, Barbara Richmond as his tiptling mammy, Sarah Overman as the slatternly Slippery Helen, Zane Allen as her sweet-toothed brother, Mark Phillips as the boatman Babbybobby, and Mark D. Messersmith as the town's level-headed doctor.

Atmospheric sets by Eric E. Sinkkonen, costumes by Ardiith

Ann Gray, and lighting by Pamela Gray add to the luster of this high-class production. *The Cripple of Inishmaan* is something of a shaggy-dog story that has been wonderfully groomed. ▼

The Cripple of Inishmaan will run at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts through May 7. Tickets are \$20-\$37. Call (650) 903-6000.

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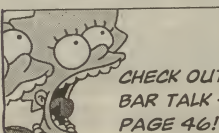
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Sensual steps

Dancer John Carroll of 'Fosse'

by Richard Dodds

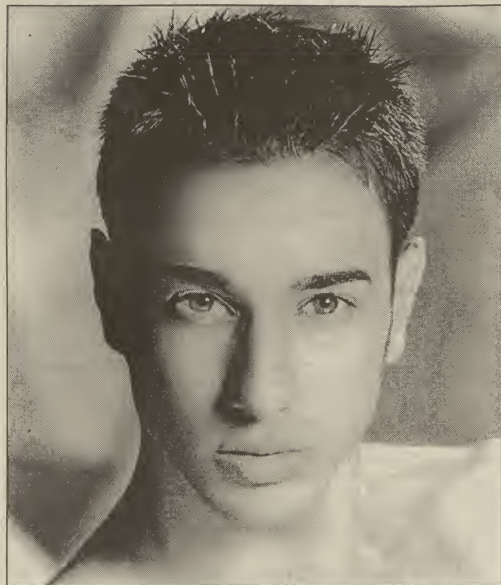
There will be no stage name for John Carroll. "I want all those people I grew up with to know it's me," said the dancer from the touring production of *Fosse*.

Only 23 and in his first job as a professional performer, he isn't that many years away from those schooldays on Long Island when he was taunted, attacked, and even spat upon for being that pariah of adolescence: a boy who dances.

"I never tried to hide," said Carroll, who came out when he was 14. "If I wanted to wear something a little more flamboyant, or if the way I acted had a take-it-or-leave-it attitude, it wasn't the way to fly by unnoticed. My school life was definitely miserable, but in hindsight I'm glad I was the way I was."

Carroll is still out there. While he figures the majority of the male dancers in *Fosse* are gay — "We're a pretty outrageous company," he says — not all want to go on record about it. "But I'm very out, and very vocal about my views, political and what not, and I mentioned [to the company's press agents] that I was into talking to a gay newspaper."

Carroll was speaking from Minneapolis, a stop on the *Fosse* tour that has since brought the show to San Francisco for a five-week run. The production at the



As a *Fosse* dancer, John Carroll feels like an actor with a meaty role.

Orpheum is a replica of the Broadway edition, now in its 16th month at New York's Broadhurst Theatre.

The show, of course, is a tribute to the choreographic skills of the late Bob Fosse, whose idiosyncratic dance steps were seen in the original productions of *The Pajama Game*, *Damn Yankees*, *How to Succeed in Business, Sweet Charity*, *Pippin*, *Chicago*, and *Dancin'*, and on the big screen in *Cabaret* and *All That Jazz*.

Carroll was still at the Juilliard School when he and his mother went to see an early preview of *Fosse*. They went back three more times. "I would sit in the audience and just weep," Carroll said, "because I was a senior and still didn't know what direction I wanted to go in. But when the lights came up and the show started, I knew this was exactly what I wanted to do."

Within weeks of graduating last year with a dance degree, he was auditioning for the touring production then being assembled. By August, he was in Chicago rehearsing with co-choreographer (and Fosse protégé and companion) Anne Reinking and artistic advisor (and Fosse's former wife and star) Gwen Verdon.

"I remember watching Anne Reinking in *Annie* as a kid and seeing tapes of Gwen Verdon dancing, so to be working face to face with these people I idolized after graduating from my dream school, I was beside myself," Carroll said. "I didn't have a lot of friends growing up, because nobody wants to be friends with a person everybody makes fun of, but it gave me a lot of time to develop a spiritual side and a faith that something was going to happen. To be living that dream now is mind-boggling."

It's a workout

But with all dreams realized, there comes a crush of reality. "This is a hard show," Carroll said. "It's two hours and 20 minutes of total aerobic work eight times a week. And you have to do that while you're living out of your suitcase. Because we travel together and work together, it's important for me to meet people and cultivate an outside life."

Cast members have been known to hit the town after a performance, which can take a toll on their efforts the next day. "We are human, and we do want to go out and experience what is around us," Carroll said. "The thing is, when you have a great cast like I think we have, our off nights are still going to be amazing."

While several performers receive featured billing, *Fosse* is very much an ensemble show, with the work spread out among the 21 dancers on stage. Carroll notably gets to strut his stuff in the "Rich Man's Frug" number from *Sweet Charity* and "Take Off with Us" from *All That Jazz*.

The latter number is a series of pas de deux featuring two couples: male-female and male-male. Carroll is in the homosexual pairing, and one of his favorite moments in the show is the audible audience reaction at their entrance.

"We're basically wearing nothing and doing these suggestive movements, and in certain cities you'll hear a gasping when we walk out," he said. "It's sort of in your face. I love it."

In the second half of the 20th century, Broadway produced several legendary choreographers, including Jerome Robbins, Gower Champion, and Michael Bennett. But none produced steps as distinctive as Fosse.

"He took all of his imperfections," Carroll said, "as far as being short, bow-legged, and balding at an early age, and rather than try to fit the norm of what everyone else in the dance world says you should do, he changed it around and made it work for him."

As a dancer recreating those steps, Carroll said he feels like an actor who has been given a meaty role. "It's something I can sink my teeth into, there are so many levels to it. It's so fulfilling artistically to do his isolations and movements."

"You feel sensual," said the former outcast of Bellmore, Long Island. "You feel beautiful." ▼

Fosse will run at the Orpheum Theatre through May 27. Tickets are \$30-\$75. Call 551-2000 or visit www.bestofbroadway-sf.com.

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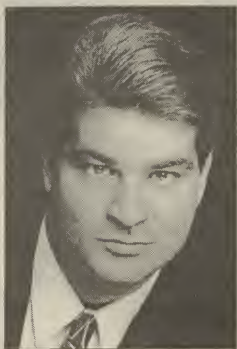
SF Opera Center showcases Britten's comedy

by Stephanie von Buchau

Before it was common knowledge that England's greatest composer, Benjamin Britten, was queer, opera lovers wondered at certain themes in his operas. The *idée fixe* of a loner pitted against established society — which repeats itself in all his work, most obviously in his finest opera, *Peter Grimes* — could be explained as a modernist trope.

But why are there no powerful female characters in Britten's operas — except in *Gloriana*, which almost nobody likes — and why so little heterosexual romance, the bedrock of opera for 400 years? When Britten does face a graphic situation — as in *The Rape of Lucretia* — the antagonists could be playing Trivial Pursuit, for all the sexual tension the actual rape music reveals.

And why do Britten's male protagonists seem more than a little "off"? Think of Grimes; Claggart and Captain Vere (both in love with the saintly Billy Budd, yet managing between them to kill him); Peter Quint (pure evil in *The Turn of the Screw*, unless he is a figment of the Governess' imagination; in which case, she's nuttier than he is); the countertenor Oberon, with his obsessive penchant for the little Indian boy; the irresolute Owen Wingrove, whose harri-



Todd Geer plays Albert Herring

"girlfriend" drives him to death.

And finally, Albert Herring, a muscular 22-year-old lad who is treated like a baby by his Mum and who, universally acclaimed as a virgin (nudge, nudge), is elected the town's May King. Poor Albert, how he chafes under the lash of his mother's tongue, and the joshing he gets from Sid (significantly, a deep-voiced baritone; Albert is a high, whitish tenor) and Sid's girl Nancy (the only wholly sympathetic, decent female in Britten's oeuvre; Ellen Orford is gentle but a coward.)

Albert Herring, premiered at Blyndebourne in 1947, is over 50 years old, which explains some of its old-fashioned ideas, the composer's reluctance to let Albert

break completely out of his cocoon, and director Lotfi Mansouri's fondness for the work; it's like a movie starring James Stewart as an overgrown virgin (*Harvey*, for instance). Ben Britten's sexual orientation may have urged him to write yet another piece for his lover and muse, Peter Pears; and his tortured relationship with his own Mum, dead ten years but not forgotten when *Albert Herring* was written, certainly surfaces in the work. There is a stern moment in the last scene when Albert says, "That'll do, Mum!" that we may take as the composer's emancipation proclamation. (If we tend to think of Britten as cowardly for not coming out, remember that the British sodomy laws would have put Pee-wee Herman behind bars for decades.)

Closet opera

In any case, was Britten's queerness (or closeted condition) really responsible for his unwillingness or inability to treat heterosexual relationships in opera with music that made them come alive erotically? (Remember, it was impossible for him to treat homosexual relationships at all.) It is fashionable, now that all is known publicly, to suggest this might be the case. Yet Tchaikovsky, who was also gay, wrote highly charged love music in his operas and in a tone poem which is not called *Romeo and*

Romeo.

Frankly, I believe that Britten was just like any other artist — a little strange and neurotic, preoccupied with his own agendas and quirks, which found their way into his music, willy-nilly, though with less emphasis on the willy than one might prefer. That doesn't mean, however, that *Billy Budd* or *Death in Venice* should be read as anything other than gay-themed operas; they speak more powerfully of the subconscious because of their surface reticence. When we get to *Albert Herring*, however, Britten's only comedy — unless you count *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which is almost as unfunny as that other lengthy operatic "comedy," *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* — the lack of any clues as to what is happening at the end opens the piece to interpretation. If you add a gay subtext, *Albert Herring* is a much more enjoyable prospect.

Eric Crozier based his libretto on a story by Guy du Maupassant in which a small-town dictator, called Lady Billows in the opera, proposes to give a sum of money to a virtuous girl to be named May Queen. When all the local maidens flunk the purity test, Lady Billows and her gang of town worthies settle on a May King, Albert Herring, goody-goody son of the local greengrocer. Albert hates his life and hates the idea of dressing up in a white suit — not specified in



Twyla Robinson plays Lady Billows

the libretto to be too small, but usually made that way by a witty costume designer, the idea being that Albert is bursting out of his clothes as well as out of his stultifying life — and giving a speech. Mrs. Herring insists he accept the honor because the prize is £25.

Spiked ade

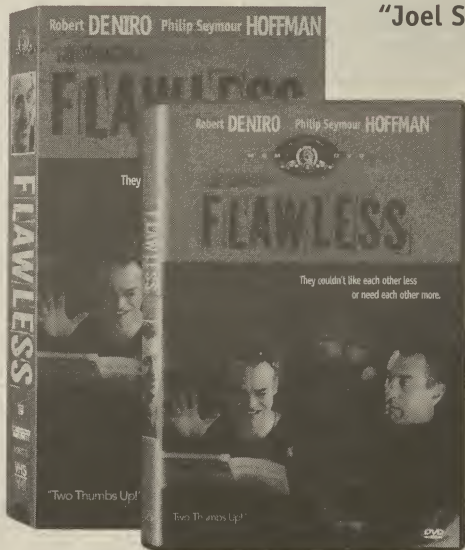
Sid and Nancy (does anyone else automatically think "Sex Pistols?"), who sing conventionally sweet, operatic love music, proving that Britten could write such when it suited his purpose, spike Albert's lemonade, and the tipsy lad escapes Mum's vigilance and goes out for a night on the town. As he later explains, he gets drunk, gets tossed out of two pubs and ends up in the gutter after a fight. Well, I've always thought this explanation was weak and probably the result of the kind of self-censorship that operated in 1947. When Albert whines, "It wasn't much fun," you

next page ►

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The Sex Pistols (left to right) Paul Cook, Sid Vicious, Johnny Rotten, and Steve Jones in *The Filth and the Fury*

Sex Pistols forever

'The Filth and the Fury' opens in SF

by Gary Morris

The 25-year hissy fit between Malcolm McLaren and the Sex Pistols continues to rage in Julian Temple's engaging documentary about everybody's favorite spitting, puking punk band. *The Filth and the Fury*, opening Friday at the Lumiere, describes one of the strangest Svengali-Trillby relationships in a music riddled with self-styled gurus and self-destructive brats. But unlike previous chronicles of the group — the lurid feature *Sid and Nancy* and Temple's own *The Great Rock and Roll Swindle* (1980) — this one lets the major players, at least those who are still around, speak for themselves.

Temple uses some clever comic conceits in framing this ride through a heady time in rock history. Malcolm "Svengali" McLaren, who was ultimately just another fashion queen, is seen suitably squeezed into a head-to-toe rubber body suit, mumbling his comments through a tiny hole for his mouth. The Pistols aren't wearing rubber, or leather, or even their trademark slashed shirts — at least it appears they aren't. In their contemporary interviews, they talk directly to the camera, but inexplicably, they're swathed in shadows, articulate but silhouetted. This might appear vanity on their part, but was in fact another of Temple's conceits. "We didn't want the audience to be taken away from the extraordinary energy and purity the Pistols had" — and "youth," he might have added, since showing them might upset young audiences by showing that time spares no one. He wisely wanted to avoid making a "ghastly rockumentary with old rock stars in make-up and armchairs."

This meant relying heavily on period imagery, and Temple got access to a previously forgotten cache of over 20 hours of original footage — concerts, interviews, rehearsals, TV appearances — of the Pistols in their prime. That material, plus the interviews, puts a welcome end to the notion, promulgated by McLaren, that the Pistols were a sort of punk version of the Monkees, fabricated to capture the Zeitgeist of the period, along with as much money as possible for the promoter. McLaren's ego, even when he's encased in latex, apparently won't allow him to drop the pose that the boys

were automatons, and he their brilliant mad scientist. He still calls them "my little lads" and says, in an apotheosis of hip crassness, "I wanted them to compete with the Bay City Rollers."

Anarchy in the UK

The film shows unequivocally that the "lads" emerged organically from the class and race cruelties of Thatcher's England. Using a collage style, *The Filth and the Fury* not only captures the period, but makes clear the connections between the boys' violent working-class music and the skyscraper tenements and garbage-clogged streets in which they grew up. Most articulate, not unexpectedly, is Johnny Lydon aka Rotten, the lyricist of the group. He's poetic even in his excess: "It's hell, it's hard, it's horrible," he says at the opening, nicely echoing not only the band's experience, but the reaction of a puzzled mainstream to a new style of music. In his own words, he went from a "quiet church mouse" in his young teens to someone who "managed to offend everyone."

Some of the strongest parts of the film are the concert scenes, which show the group mostly at its raucous, uninhibited best. There were low moments, to be sure, and they're also here. The Pistols' tour of America was an unmitigated disaster. Booked by an uncomprehending record company into the Longhorn Saloon and accompanied by bodyguards, the boys were reviled and assaulted by a crowd that must have preferred a safer brand of punk. More typical are the club concerts in England, littered with

generic and the future famous like Siouxsie Sioux and Billy Idol, and their number-one fan who had a brief run as a Pistol, Sid Vicious. The influence of these small events by a group that only existed for a bit over two years was significant. "Seeing us playing only three chords," Lydon says, let the scenesters know they could all do it, and they did.

Unlike Vicious, Lydon and his collaborators — Steve Jones, Paul Cook, and Glen Matlock — were serious about and dedicated to their music. "The work at the end of the day is what's worth it," he says. The fact that they were able to wrest away the complete rights to their musical catalog, from McLaren and other competing forces, shows that they indeed created their own sound. And their album *Never Mind the Bollocks — Here's the Sex Pistols* remains as fresh and hard as when it first came out in 1977.

As serious as the film is in trying to correct a labyrinthine history, there's also plenty of humor. Temple injects his own wit in scenes from a particularly overcooked 1950s film of *Richard III*, contrasting the fussiness of the noble Shakespearean world (as we imagine it) with the screaming fits of the Pistols strumming and spitting their way to fame. And *The Filth and the Fury* is also, of all things, an anti-drug film. A few minutes of a rare 1978 interview with Sid Vicious, a hunky boy deranged by smack, could make any junkie think twice. ▼

The Filth and the Fury plays the Lumiere April 28-May 11.

Albert Herring

◀ previous page

can't help thinking he hasn't been liberated from anything. What is the point of declaring yourself emancipated if you can't enjoy it?

So, despite the British penchant for thinking drunkenness is a hoot, I've always suspected that Albert is not telling us everything. Some writers have fantasized that during his pub crawl, Albert may have met an accommodating lady of the night and lost that burdensome virginity; after all, he has Lady Billows' £25 on him. On the other hand, there is no textual or musical evidence for an encounter with a prostitute or any

reason to assume Albert would avail himself of same. But, given Britten's orientation and the fact that Albert is something of an alter-ego for the composer, what if Albert's night of nights didn't consist just of drinking and fighting?

Instead of sleeping it off in the gutter, think of him snoozing in the warm hay of some local barn, with a studly blond ploughboy as his pillow. Now that's an emancipation worth smiling about. ▼

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BOOKS

Laughing it up with the womenfolk

Talking 'Funny Ladies' with author Stephen M. Silverman

by Brandon Judell

What do The Nanny's mom (Renee Taylor), Fang's wife (Phyllis Diller), Lucille Ball, Ellen DeGeneres, and dear Mae West — who once purred, "Between two evils, I always pick the one I never tried before" — have in common? They've all been honored by making it into Stephen M. Silverman's tasty and tasteful new coffee-table book, *Funny Ladies: 100 Years of Great Comedienne* (Abrams).

Over 70 other ladies have joined them in this enjoyable cornucopia of female wit and whimsy. Try to come up with someone who's missing from the index, and it'll take you quite a while. There's Jean Arthur, Pearl Bailey, Hattie McDaniel, Minnie Pearl, Cher, Goldie Hawn, Hermione Gingold, Madeline Kahn, Cameron Diaz, Tracey Ullman, Janeane Garofalo, and even self-proclaimed "fag hag" Margaret Cho.



Author Stephen M. Silverman

The strikingly red-headed Silverman, who's editor of the *People Magazine Online Daily*, an adjunct professor at Columbia University, and author of books on Stanley Donen, David Lean, and the eccentric wills of the deceased, agreed to call B.A.R. up the other day and let loose on his latest work.

"Abrams, my publisher, and I had been kicking around doing another book together. We kicked around several ideas. I even flew out to California on their nickel two times to look into subjects that just didn't grab me. Then my editor said, 'Listen! You know you're always talking about how you love Lucy. Is there anything there?' Well, I thought, God knows how many books are out there on Lucille Ball. I don't need to add to that list. I'm even quoted in some of them. Then I thought, what about the funny ladies, and that's what did it."

Lucky us! Because on top of brief bios on these gals, Silverman has included, at times, samples of their humor. For instance, there's Bette Midler doing her Sophie Tucker imitation. "The best of Midler's 'Soph' jokes involved Sophie's boyfriend Ernie telling her in bed one night, 'Soph, you got no tits and a tight box.' To which Sophie said, 'Ernie, get off my back.'"

Supersized

Then there's Joan Rivers' barbs directed at Elizabeth Taylor during her fat phase: "She puts mayonnaise on her aspirin." "Her thighs have gone condo." "She has more chins than the Hong Kong



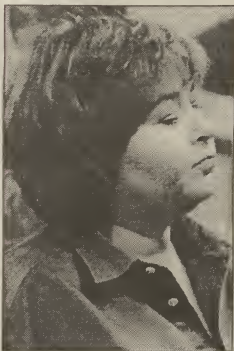
Joan Rivers: It's a matter of age.

phone book."

And one can't forget Reno: "Women are so inconsequential in society that nobody knows what our stuff is called. The cervix. You ask 95 percent of the people on the street, 'Where's the cervix?' and they turn around and point to the top of their neck."

Or Rita Rudner: "I like men with pierced ears. They're better prepared for marriage. They've experienced pain and bought jewelry."

So with all his research, does Silverman think women of one decade are funnier than another? "No," he replies. "I mean, obviously some hit it just right. Any given episode of *Roseanne* is just



Roseanne: Funnier when fat.

as funny as Lucy is, as funny as Gracie Allen is, as funny as Fanny Brice in movie clips I've seen. Everyone is on or off on a certain night. I don't think we can generalize and say women in the '50s were the funniest women of all time, as we wouldn't say women of whatever this decade is called are the least funny of them all."

Well, a more important subject! Facelifts. Take comics like Carol Burnett and Rivers. Didn't all that tightened flesh make them less amusing?

After a moment of pensive thought, Silverman responded, "I suppose that argument could be made. I remember when I was doing all these interviews for the *New York Post* in the '80s, we'd have all these promising new actresses debut. They were interesting to look at. Then, suddenly, they all started to look the same. They would have a little work done, they'd all lose a ton of weight, and their careers would dry up. So I do think there is something to the physical look of the person. If you're talking about Roseanne in particular, I think the argument could be made that as she became better looking, her humor became less sharp. As for

Joan Rivers, that's stand-up. Her one-liners can still be funny. With her, it's also a matter of age, too. I'm not being ungentlemanly, but she doesn't look the way she did, though her one-liners can still be as off-putting as ever."

Another major trend of recent times is being openly lesbian and jocular. Take Reno, Kate Clinton, Ellen and Sandra ("My great big Jewish ass drives black men crazy") Bernhard. "It is a new phenomenon," Silverman agrees. "You know, in the old days there might have been gay clubs where women performed who were openly lesbian, but their acts would never have gone mainstream. So that's the difference."

And what about the closeted lesbians performing today, as well as in the past? Does it give their humor an added edge? "It adds to their experience, which therefore adds to their humor. We can't separate one from the other."

Well, Mr. Silverman, you're not

laughing today, but one can imagine you tittered throughout the writing of this tome. Were you doubling up at your word processor?

"No, honestly, because I was so concerned with making sure I wasn't stepping on any punch lines. I shouldn't say that. When I wrote the Tallulah Bankhead passage, I didn't laugh myself, but I could hear other people laughing when they would read it. I was projecting that. I could tell it was funny."

Excerpt from Tallulah chapter: "Seldom without a cigarette and drink — the aftereffects of the former caused her to be called, justifiably, 'the Alabama Foghorn' — Tallulah enjoyed appetites as towering as her anecdotes. 'Cocaine isn't habit-forming,' she declared. 'I should know, I've been using it for years.' Asked how on earth she could have performed oral sex on one of the ugliest men in New York, Tallulah supposedly replied, 'Dahling, anything to get away from his face.'"



Tallulah Bankhead, "the Alabama Foghorn," enjoyed her vices.

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How to succeed in business

'The Apartment' at the Castro Theatre

by Tavo Amador

Billy Wilder's *The Apartment* (1960) surprised many with its cynicism and mordant wit, although why it should have done so is difficult to fathom. It's firmly in the tradition of his other dark glances at life: *Double Indemnity* (1944), *The Lost Weekend* (1945), *A Foreign Affair* (1948), *Sunset Boulevard* (1950), *The Big Carnival* (1951), and *Stalag 17* (1953). Perhaps it was because the movie wittily portrayed middle-aged, suburban married men, company men, the erstwhile pillars of society, as philandering and morally bankrupt. Perhaps, also, because it was such a contrast to his two previous pictures, the brilliant murder mystery based on Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957), and the farcical, genderbending comedy, *Some Like It Hot* (1959). It plays the

Castro on Friday as part of Marc Huestis' *A Tribute to Billy Wilder*.

The plot revolves around C.C. Baxter (Jack Lemmon), who is an accountant for a large Manhattan insurance company. He lives in a small brownstone apartment just off Central Park West and allows office executives to use it for their sexual encounters. They, in turn, promise to put in a good word for him with the Director of Personnel, J.D. Sheldrake (Fred MacMurray). They do, and Sheldrake, not a fool, quickly finds out what's going on. He agrees to the promotions in return for the key to Baxter's apartment.

Baxter is attracted to Fran Kubelik (Shirley MacLaine), who works for the company as an elevator operator. She is polite but distant. To his dismay, he learns that she is having an affair with the married Sheldrake. (The scene showing how he finds out is a high point of the film.) At the office

Christmas Eve party, Sheldrake's tipsy secretary, Miss Olson (Edie Adams), tells Fran about his long list of office romances, including herself. Later that evening, Fran and Sheldrake are in Baxter's apartment. He has to leave to catch his suburban commuter train and gives her a Christmas present, \$100, telling her to buy herself something nice. After he departs, the utterly disillusioned Fran attempts suicide by overdosing on some sleeping pills in Baxter's medicine cabinet. He finds her, and with the help of his kindly next-door neighbor, a doctor (Jack Kruschen), succeeds in reviving her.

Lift girl

Forty years after the movie's release, what's likely to surprise viewers is not the cynicism, but that someone with Fran's brains should be working as an elevator operator (a nearly extinct profession) rather than in one of the large corner offices. But few women had really made it in corporate America in 1960, Joan Crawford's film roles and real-life business responsibilities notwithstanding. The film accurately portrays that world as a bastion of straight white male privilege and power.

As he had in *Double Indemnity*, Wilder cast MacMurray in an unsympathetic part. In that film noir classic, he is the willing victim of greedy, amoral temptress Barbara Stanwyck. Here he is the cynical exploiter of a willing but naive young woman, a textbook example of a sexual harasser. Naturally, he is polished and polite. But his surface manners belie a ruthless user only interested in his own pleasure.

Already a star for 25 years, MacMurray was best known for light comedies (in some ways, he was the Jack Lemmon of the '30s and '40s) and would enjoy enormous popularity on television as the amiable father in the long-running sitcom *My Three Sons*. By using such a seemingly bland actor, a middle-aged Everyman, in a pivotal part, Wilder forced contemporary audiences to examine their assumptions about "good" men, "nice" men, "family" men. MacMurray was an inspired choice, and his performance increases the film's complexity, giving it a darker meaning than it would otherwise have had.

As Baxter, Lemmon begins the film as a perfect younger version of Sheldrake. His willingness to prostitute his apartment in exchange for advancement marks him as one likely to climb the cor-



Edie Adams and Jack Lemmon in Billy Wilder's *The Apartment*.

porate ladder, probably several rungs higher than his innate abilities would have taken him. For much of the movie, it's not the uses his apartment is put to, but the inconvenience that results, that make him wonder if it's worth it. His neatly handled redemption comes in the form of love. But the viewer wonders if, in a few years, presented with another "easy" way to get ahead, he wouldn't revert to his old habits. Coming right after his memorable "Daphne" in *Some Like It Hot*, Lemmon's characterization sent critics searching for new superlatives.

MacLaine's Fran is one of her best victims, because she seems so helpless in the face of Sheldrake's blandishments and promises, so warily amused, then touched, and finally won over by Baxter's concern for her. Both men make her feel wanted, but only Baxter really cares about her. It takes her a while to catch on, but the process is natural, as is every note of her performance. She changes from doormat to survivor and has the audience rooting for her every step of the way.

The supporting cast matches the three leads, especially the oily Ray Walston as an executive who calls Baxter "Buddy Boy" and needs the apartment too often, and Kruschen, who thinks that

Baxter is sleeping with all the women showing up next door and consuming copious amounts of alcohol. In a long-running joke, he asks him to leave his body to the Columbia School of Medicine. Edie Adams makes the most of her few scenes as Sheldrake's discarded mistress. Joan Shawlee and Joyce Jameson have fine bits as two of the women taken to the apartment by its regular users. The latter is funny as a third-rate Marilyn Monroe. (Was Wilder taking a swipe at his difficult *Some Like It Hot* leading lady?)

The film earned Academy Awards for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay (Wilder and regular collaborator I.A.L. Diamond), Best Art Direction, and Best Editing. Lemmon, nominated for Best Actor, lost to Burt Lancaster's exuberant *Elmer Gantry*. MacLaine, up for Best Actress, was edged out by Elizabeth Taylor's hooker with a heart of gold and quirky standards in *Butterfield 8*. Peter Ustinov's slimy slave trader in *Spartacus* earned him the Best Supporting Actor Oscar over Kruschen's warm and funny *mensch*. Incredibly, MacMurray was not nominated. The movie did big business at the box office, and Ferrante and Tiescher's rendition of its theme song, by Adolph Deutsch, flooded the airwaves for years. ▼

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Edie Adams

◀ Arts cover

yard.

And you got your role in *The Apartment* as a result of your friendship with him?

What happened was that we had all gone out to dinner — Billy, [his wife] Audrey, Ernie and I — and, all of a sudden, Billy asked if I could wear my hair up and play a little older. He said he had a part in mind for me. I thought it was flattering, but I figured he'd forget about it by tomorrow. Well. The next day was Sunday, and wardrobe called and asked me to bring a few things down to the

studio. I hung up the phone and thought, "I guess I'm in my first movie."

In your autobiography, *Sing a Pretty Song*, you talk about how you clashed with Wilder regarding your role as Miss Olson, Fred MacMurray's current secretary and former lover. Wilder thought she should be a complete bitch.

See, I was straight from the Actor's Studio. I was taught that if a character is a bitch, you don't play her as just that. It would be a flat performance. The thing about Billy is that he wrote great characters — Miss Olson is wonderfully written — but he didn't always know how to bring them out in his actors. I knew that he would

like what I was doing better than what he asked for. And he did.

After *The Apartment*, you made *Lover Come Back*, in which you co-starred with your good friend Rock Hudson.

He was wonderful to work with because he was so giving as an actor. He wasn't like most actors who are looking in the mirror all the time. We got along so well that after Ernie died, the studio would send out pictures of us and say we were dating. Of course, we weren't, but I did adore him. He was just the sweetest man ever.

There were a number of gay men who were important to you in your
next page ▶

INTERVIEW

Edie Adams

◀ previous page

career.

The stage manager of some of the first TV shows I did — Ernie's show and *The Jack Paar Show* — was Burt Shevelove, who went on to write *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Now, in the '50s, men didn't wear a red lining in their blazer, or red socks, but Burt did. He was just so unique and interesting and funny. He was one of the funniest human beings I've ever known. He taught me so much about comedy.



Edie Adams has seen it all.

Is it true that you didn't know you were funny until you did *The Ernie Kovacs Show*?

I had to be funny doing that show. Ernie would say, "I have to go change clothes. Kill five minutes." And I'd say, "What! Doing what? This is live!" And he'd say, "You'll think of something." So the first thing I started doing was telling Welsh jokes that weren't funny, but because I told them with a Welsh accent, everybody would laugh. Then I started doing Zsa Zsa Gabor reading Shakespeare, "Out, out naughty spot." Then I did Marilyn Monroe singing Schubert lieder. I could kill time with this stuff.

Some comedians are threatened or put off by women who are funny. Jerry Lewis expressed just such an opinion recently.

Is Jerry Lewis a comedian? I hadn't realized.

Maybe only to the French. My point is that Ernie Kovacs seemed to work best with women on his show.

I know he relied on me as much as I did on him to get through a routine. He'd flare his upstage nostril to let me know not to break into the bit, to just shut up and watch. But if he was looking at me from the corner of his eye, I knew that I had to jump in.

You divided your time between TV and theater in the '50s. Did you have a favorite?

Oh, theater was always my first love. I was very fortunate to start off with a part like Eileen in a show like *Wonderful Town*. I never got tired of doing that.

But doing *Li'l Abner* was a different story.

It's just that Daisy Mae is on-stage for most of the show, and she doesn't do anything. She's not the perpetrator of any action, and she doesn't say much except, "Ah loves ya, Abner." She's like a four-

year-old. But the show did teach me a lot about reaction. The temptation was to be on stage thinking, "Did I send the clothes to the cleaners?" or, "Gee, that's a nice hat that lady in the audience is wearing." But I forced myself to stay in character.

With all you've done in your career — theater, movies, music and TV — it seems strange that the thing you're most famous for is the Muriel Cigar commercials you did from the early '60s until the late '70s.

It's true. When the first commercial aired I was in New York, and I remember I was coming out of Sardi's. Now, I had been coming out of Sardi's for many years by that point, but this time I came out and these kids started screaming, "Edie! Edie!" They crowded around me saying, "Oh, you were great in that commercial." I just thought it was the weirdest thing.

You recorded a few pop albums during your career, but you've said you and pop music don't mix.

That's true when it comes to

'50s pop music, the terminally perky stuff. That's one thing I was hired to do that I really couldn't do well.

Marc Huestis is promising us that you'll sing at the Castro.

At my age, that really depends on if I can find appropriate material. Sometimes I go down to the Roosevelt to see a show, and it bothers me to see these old broads — God, older than I, and very few people are older than I — singing, "Oh, my man I love him so." And I'm thinking, "Oh, come on,

honey!" Now, I can see singing "September Song" or some of the Mabel Mercer songs, or "I Blame It On My Youth" or that kind of thing. If I could get a couple of those songs together, I wouldn't mind performing at the Castro. It would be fun. ▼

A Tribute to Billy Wilder, including an interview with Edie Adams and a screening of *The Apartment*, takes place Friday, April 28, 7 p.m. at the Castro Theatre. Call 863-0611.

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Touched by an Anglo

by Victoria A. Brownworth

The longest miniseries in the history of television reached its apex this week. Yes, gentle reader, we refer of course to *The Elian Gonzalez Story*.

The pre-dawn raid by INS agents on the home of the Miami relatives provided the kind of TV stunner we've come to expect as May sweeps begin. The whole scene, filmed under cover of darkness — ninja-outfitted INS agent pointing his rifle — safety off — at the six-year-old; tear gas hurled at Cuban-American demonstrators as a female agent whisked the screaming child (yelling "Qué pasa?") into a van with blacked-out windows; the sobbing relatives inside; the prayer groups and media outside; demonstrators chanting, "This is Havana, not Miami!"; the prepared statements by Attorney General Reno defending her actions and President Clinton defending Reno — looked like an episode of *The X-Files*.

Of course, this being national media horror week — anniversaries of Columbine, Oklahoma City and Waco — something had to happen. Much as we've come to loathe this story that has seemed like eternal damnation to PAX TV with a little WWF thrown in, we never like to see guns and kids in the same room. This episode merely proved this story has no heroes, only villains and a small political pawn — uh, child — as the weak central character.

No doubt, the deconstruction episodes explaining and excusing everyone's bad behavior will run up to the May 11 asylum (political, not commitment) hearings, but in our estimation, this series has dragged on too long already. Please — lent is over, we no longer have to self-flagellate. This is like the 11th plague of Egypt. We'll take the boils instead, please. That's pain we can comprehend.

Of course, we knew it would only be a matter of time before someone bought the rights to the story (because we just want *more, more, more*). CBS has announced they will air a TV-movie of the Elian story in the fall. Of course, they'll have to compete with the *real* story, which will still be sal-sa-ing through every network from dawn to dusk like some Univision infomercial.

Now, we love *The X-Files* and *Roswell*, but we are not big proponents of conspiracy theories. We do wonder which candidate running for President is paying to keep this story alive and keep the media attention off the tedious race (more of a meandering, actually). Could it be that boy with the big bucks and no brain whose brother is governor of the Elian Gonzalez state? Our soft money's on him.

Log-rolling

Speaking of the little Bush kid, he met with some Log Cabinettes — he didn't want the meeting videotaped by the media (wonder why?). Afterward, he told the press he had "learned a lot" from the exchange (which is more than we can say about any meeting with Log Cabinettes we've attended). But he hasn't changed his mind about queers. Guess the Log Cabinettes will have to write in Michael Huffington for Prez this November.

Speaking of politics, Rudy Giuliani has plummeted in the polls for the New York race for Senate. It's not so much that neophyte New Yorker Hillary Clinton has wooed voters, as Giuliani has been beating them away with sticks — nightsticks. The frequency of police shootings and assaults of unarmed black men in New York City by the NYPD has become a national disgrace. But Giuliani's vilification of the inno-

cent victims on local and national television hasn't exactly endeared him to New Yorkers. Nor have his snide comments about New York's black voters. The sniping — literal and figurative — has caused other New York Republicans some discomfort. Not only are they now repeating what Hillary said six months ago — that Giuliani's a loose cannon and not a team player — but they are also planning to run another candidate. None of this bodes well for Giuliani.



Lavender Tube

Meanwhile, the talk of the tabloids this week was Giuliani's wife's decision (she's the actress Patricia Hanover) to take a role in the upcoming theatre production of the queer *Vagina Monologues*. Bet that's going over well with the already unhappy conservative faction. We love New York.

We also love political expediency. John McCain — in limbo in the presidential race — held a press conference last week announcing his conviction that the Confederate flag *should* come down. McCain acknowledged that he had waffled on the issue during his race with the Bush kid for the Republican candidacy because he didn't want to lose votes. But on reflection (would that be a reflection about an independent bid for President as the Reform Party candidate?), he felt compelled to declare the wrongness of maintaining a symbol that is painful to so many.

Better late than never. Maybe the Log Cabinettes can back him.

Meanwhile, McCain's name came up on *Politically Incorrect* when host Bill Maher, who talks more about queers than any straight person we know, noted that when McCain said he knew who was queer when he was in the military, HRC executive director David Smith huffed that he couldn't tell who was gay from

looking at them (now this doesn't surprise us at all, coming from the organization that backed Alphonse D'Amato over Charles Schumer, but we digress). Maher called Smith a "liar" (he wouldn't be the first), and guest Joan Rivers said *she* could also tell who was gay and who wasn't (if they were in drag as her?).

Now label us politically incorrect, but how wrong is it to say one can tell someone's queer by how they look and act? It seems the assimilationists at HRC are so dedicated to the principle that we should look and act and live just like straight folks that they must deny the reality of gaydar most of us live by. What does it mean when a Republican candidate for president has better gaydar than the head of a major queer organization? Just ask the Log Cabinettes.

Hamming it up

Passover and Easter might mean excruciating familial visits for most of us, but for Martha Stewart the days, hours, minutes and nanoseconds leading up to the holidays are fraught with ideas of how best to celebrate with time-consuming frou-frou. Egg topiaries, dyeing eggs with all-natural dyes (no, not L'Oreal — beets and Spanish onions), quail egg garlands, sugared panorama eggs, hot cross buns (Queen Elizabeth I insisted on the cross), homemade gefilte fish (Miss Martha likes hers with a little sugar — as if anything but a jeroam of Manischewitz would help), unleavened carrot cakes, and yes, the *pièce de résistance* (well, this would be for the gentiles, not those of the Hebrew persuasion) — smoking one's own hams (does it work for lox?).

Forget *Will & Grace* — Martha Stewart is the queerest thing on television. Unable to bear another moment of the Elian story, we eschewed *World News Now* in favor of *Martha Stewart Living*. We now know the inside of a quail's egg is good for

making homemade pasta — very delicate flavor, our Miss Stewart says. Be sure to plan a lot of baking the day you blow out the eggs for your garlands and topiaries, because you don't want to waste the dozens you'll have.

And, Miss Martha tells us, "Please refer to Martha Stewart.com for the best way to blow out an egg so that you don't have a smelly topiary." We won't even attempt commentary on either the blowing or the scent. Self-parody, thy name is Stewart. We must admit Miss Martha can make even gefilte fish look aesthetically pleasing. How disturbing is that?

Speaking of disturbing, we were just a little horrified when John Rocker, fresh from his suspension for anti-gay and racist comments, ran onto the field at his Atlanta season opener last week to a standing ovation from the crowd. Just makes one want to get nice and cozy with the Braves fans, now, don't it?

Speaking of brave, chubby-chasers take note: John Goodman told David Letterman he'll be starring in a series for Fox this fall about a dysfunctional family. Goodman let slip he plays a character who comes out of the closet. Finally — a queen the average queer can relate to.

Finally, the sight gag (and we do mean gag) of the week: Jay Leno remarked on California's decision to recycle the state's used bath and toilet water for drinking. Not a new idea, he noted — France has been doing this for years. He then held up a bottle of drinking water, the label of which looked exactly like the French water, Evian — except the label read *Bidet*. *C'est vrai*, the French always have been on the cutting edge — first to consider garden slugs a delicacy, first to collaborate with the Nazis, now first to piss in a bottle and sell it as spring water. We love the French. They always make us feel so much better about being American — *n'est pas?* ▼

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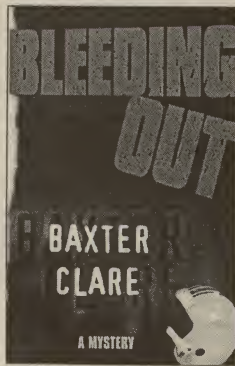
BOOKS

One great, one less so

by Deborah Peifer

What has happened to all the dyke detectives? Can it be that lesbian readers have moved on from genre fiction? I knew that with *Naiad* down to four books a year, and Bella Books not yet operational, there was bound to be some drop off in lesbian mysteries, but I never dreamed that the appearance of a mystery for review would become an absolute rarity. Surely, we can find some middle ground, writers and publishers, between all mysteries all the time and none. Lucky for me that of the few mysteries that turned up, one is a stunner.

Bleeding Out, an extraordinary first novel by Baxter Clare (Firebrand, \$13.95), introduces Lieutenant L.A. Franco to the reading populace. Frank, way too butch ever to be called Frankie, runs the homicide unit out of South Central Los Angeles, and her life is devoted to work, exercise, watching football, and drinking herself into an early grave. The alcohol doesn't affect her job, but it does provide the numbness she needs to get through her nightmares. When young women start turning up raped, battered, and murdered on her turf, Frank is obsessed with finding the killer, if only to offer



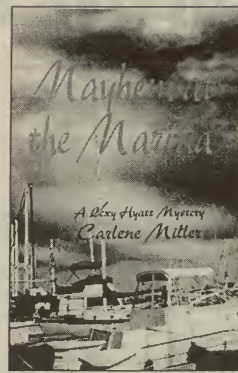
that small consolation to the destroyed families of the victims.

Folded into the main narrative is the parallel story of the killer himself, complete with a childhood so horrific that it's almost possible to feel sympathy for him, even while wishing that he be gunned down like the mad dog he is.

Clare creates an astonishing array of vivid and credible characters, starting with her hero, a cop who will sacrifice anything, including her career, to get a killer off the streets. Frank's own personal losses have turned her into Robocop, only with fewer human emotions. She lets few people in,

and then only if they manage to earn her trust. Watching her mind work, as she pores over evidence and witness statements to get into the mind of a killer, is a fascinating experience. As we watch Frank interact with fellow detectives, however, it's clear she's headed for a meltdown, one that Clare creates with real tenderness and terror. *Bleeding Out* is a riveting novel, filled with twists, turns and surprises. I hope it turns out to be the first in a long series.

We don't give a most improved writer award in this column, but if we did, it would surely go to Carlene Miller, whose first novel, *Killing At The Cat*, was so dreadful that it took considerable intestinal fortitude to pick up her second, *Mayhem at the Marina* (New Victoria, \$11.95). *Mayhem* is no great shakes as a novel or a mystery, but it is so much less awful than the first that it deserves some small mention. Newspaper reporter Lexy Hyatt was supposed to take a romantic vacation with her new lover, but when Wren is called to the bedside of her ex, Lexy is left with time on her hands and more than a little resentment. Lucky for Lexy that her friend, Marilyn, has a boat that's being worked on by a teenager in trouble. Surely, former teacher Lexy



will be able to resolve the teen's trauma, and when a mystery occurs, solve it in her inimitable (read mostly clueless) manner. On the way to an out-of-nowhere conclusion, Lexy is tempted, tormented and teased by the instantaneously friendly denizens of the marina. Lexy learns the deepest secrets of all she meets within moments of her first introduction. I am unable to discern anything about Lexy that would lead to spontaneous revelations; nevertheless, they occur. Much of what was particularly annoying in the first novel is gone in the second. All Miller needs to do now is create credible characters in believable situations and tighten the di-

alogue, and she may come up with a book worth reading. If you were trapped somewhere with absolutely nothing to read but *Mayhem at the Marina*, you wouldn't have to kill yourself, but that's about the extent of my recommendation.

Briefly

If the ups and downs of the market have left you with a serious case of the financial whims, stop in at A Different Light on April 30 at 3:30 p.m. to hear Todd Rainey (*Money Talks: A Gay and Lesbian Guide to Financial Success*) explain financial planning, building a budget, managing credit card debt and recommendations about how to choose insurance.

Also at ADL: Sex on the brain? Local contributors read from *Quickies 2*, gay male erotica edited by James Johnstone, on May 2 at 7:30 p.m. Lesbians get our turn on May 3, 7:30 p.m. with readings from *Hot and Bothered 2*, edited by Karen X. Tulchinsky.

Rebecca Solnit reads from *Wanderlust: A History of Walking* (Viking, \$24.95), the most interesting nonfiction book I've read this year, on April 27, 7 p.m., at The Booksmith, 1644 Haight Street. ▼

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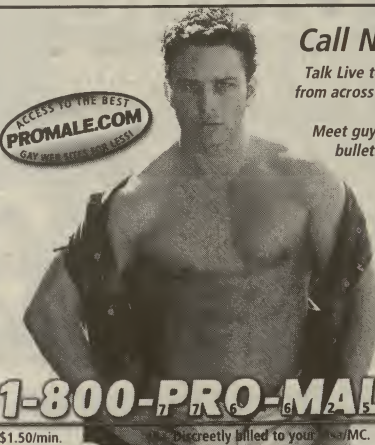
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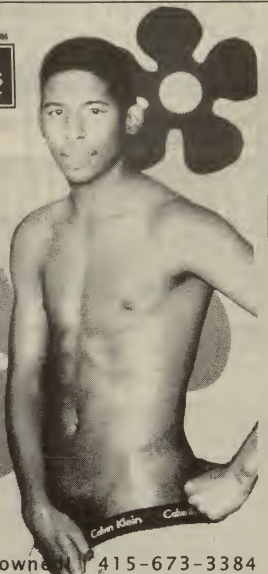
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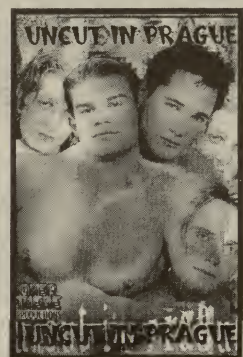
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How to survive a breakup

by Mark Mardon

When It's Time to Leave Your Lover: A Guide for Gay Men by Neil Kaminsky, LCSW; Harrington Park Press; \$24.95 soft, \$39.95 hard.

Backing out of a rocky gay relationship is like rappelling down a rocky cliff: you either make sure you're safely belayed, or you end up a splattered mess.

If love has turned to torment, and you're at wit's end, wondering what direction to take; if you're almost convinced all men are pigs and relationship bliss seems a hopeless quest, you're in luck, my friend. We gays may not have the legal right to marry, but we know all about divorce, and what we have experienced, as a community with a long history of intense self-scrutiny but with too few resources to guide us, has been admirably described and analyzed in Neil Kaminsky's *When It's Time to Leave*

Your Lover: A Guide for Gay Men. It's filled with basic how-to, self-help advice for coping with breakups, spiced up with a plethora of anecdotes from case studies involving Kaminsky's clients (he's a licensed clinical social worker; his clients' names were changed to shield them from embarrassment).

As a disgruntled lover, your first job, according to Kaminsky, is to recognize that, in fact, you need to break up. Coming to this realization will involve much indecision and countless hard questions, best asked of yourself, not your partner. You may decide to stick it out, work through the knots, etc. Maybe you just need a breather. Maybe you were really meant to be just friends. But sometimes you're going to have to say goodbye, and then you would do well to consider all the consequences. You see, you ought not simply dump your lover if he's been at all decent, because that could end up making you feel like a complete jerk, and your priority is to look

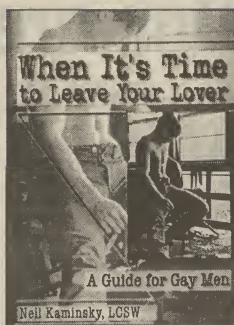
out for yourself. Rather, you ought to depart from him ever so gently, being firm and forthright, yet allowing your fleeing affection to caress his cheek farewell as you let him know in no uncertain terms that you're setting off — alone — in search of freedom and happiness (or at least lack of misery).

Retreat guide

For backing out of a relationship once you've lost your way — or your partner has, or both of you have — *When It's Time to Leave Your Lover* is as good advice as you'll get short of a therapist and some really perceptive and patient friends. It is a guide for retreat, for admitting defeat and bowing out gracefully with as few bruises as possible. It offers scant advice on how to push forward through difficult terrain, overcoming painful obstacles in the quest for fulfillment (though this book ought to be required reading for anyone even considering en-

tering into a "serious" relationship). Rather, it proffers what amount to first-aid tips: how to recognize symptoms of things being screwed up between you and your beau (be alert for red flags that signal misery and doom, such as lack of trust, "fantasy confusion about who your lover is," substance abuse, and lack of emotional support). If you adhere to the book's wisdom, face the hard facts early enough, and act to cushion yourself against emotional upheaval, the wounds of a breakup won't hurt so much.

Just as a map is not the territory, a guidebook is not the embodiment of truth. While it can hint at ways of sorting out the complexities of life, a book such as this can offer only the most general suggestions for finding your footing before you free-fall. It can't tell you precisely where to step, and it certainly can't tell you how to see and appreciate the poetry of your situation. Rather, it offers a fairly en-



gaging yet ultimately clinical take on managing relationships, in the process mostly sanitizing them.

The book's most powerful accomplishment is laying out a general system of rules for struggling partners, a ready reference to turn to for advice, all of which will probably fly out the window when it comes time to break up. But forewarned is forearmed: at least you'll know which rules you're mangling. ▼



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Sheets

◀ Arts cover

from the permanent archives of the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California — the exhibit permits a sustained overview of the different forms and uses of posters and flyers. Because *Sheets in the Wind* features such vital, culturally- and socially-attuned material, it feels more like a community production than a museum exhibit.

Fuzee's curatorial protocol was graphically driven. Her goal was to assemble "aesthetically and culturally diverse representations of our community at different times." Toward this end, she appears to have prioritized creative and captivating images over more text-heavy posters.

Ideal deal

Fuzee highlights many of these media's distinctive qualities. The ease with which posters and flyers can be created and distributed

makes them an ideal genre for event-publicizing. They can be created and disseminated quickly, at a very low cost — a relatively democratic graphic form. They can be installed anonymously, and read or collected with a fair degree of anonymity. They can and do shock, inspire and cajole passersby. Simultaneously, posters and flyers have to make their impact felt quickly. *Sheets in the Wind* repeatedly demonstrates how this focus of intent forces an aesthetic directness.

In her notes to the exhibit, Fuzee observes that on a sociological level, posters and broadsides became a means by which community interests came to be identified. Over time, these interests have changed, and the particular forms of their expression have also developed. The exhibit demonstrates practical examples of the medium's developments over the past 25 years.

The earliest posters in the exhibition were produced and distributed in the mid-1960s. Published by homophile organizations the

Daughters of Bilitis and the Society for Individual Rights, these posters deal with issues of citizen arrest and coming out. They are organized in a display case of their own, and offer a starting point to the rest of the exhibit.

The posters and cards featured call attention to a wide range of events — art exhibits, special nights at bars, performances, benefits, clubs, and film festivals. Two display cases offer an historical gamut of posters, most of which were produced from the late 1970s through the late 1990s. From expressly couched politics to sex-oriented events, these posters encapsulate public queer culture in a satisfying and exciting manner. ▼

Sheets in the Wind runs through May 26. The exhibit is located inside and near the James C. Hormel Center, 3rd floor, San Francisco Public Library Main Branch, 100 Larkin St. For hours, call 557-4000.

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BOOKS

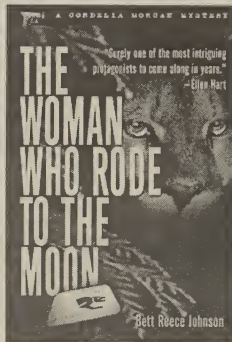
She wants to be alone

by Deborah Peifer

The Woman Who Rode to the Moon by Bett Reese Johnson; Cleis, \$12.95

Any mystery worth its salt must reach a point at which it is no longer possible to put the book down. Whether because of suspense or terror, to find out who did it or why, to discover if the good guy will survive the denouement, there must be a moment when how it ends matters much more than sleep, or food, or that appointment that just moments before you thought you had to keep. *The Woman Who Rode to the Moon* is just such a novel. Weaving threads from several subplots into a vivid tapestry of loss and evil and the possibility of redemption, Bett Reese Johnson creates a stunning novel filled with switchbacks, flashbacks, and more than a few backstabs. Cordelia Morgan is a flawed hero, trying to do what she can in the world to make it work a little better, or at least to work in the ways she finds satisfactory.

J. S. Symkin — Sym to her friends, if she only had any — has endured a life of loss after loss. After the last betrayal, she decides to disappear into the mountains of Colorado, to become Greta Garbo. In transforming herself into the famous recluse, she will find fulfillment in living alone. She's been hurt too many times to seek human company. In her remote mountain cabin, she can



ignore the rare human who wanders by, and devote herself to her solitude. She chooses El Gato, a place where neighborliness consists mainly of leaving your neighbors alone.

Cordelia Morgan is in El Gato for another reason entirely. Her good friend Claire James is agonizing over her daughter's suicide. Convinced there must be more to her death, she pleads with Cordelia to investigate. On the run from various undercover and underworld operatives, Cordelia sees the El Gato inquiry as the perfect way to combine hiding with helping out an old friend. When Sym and Cordelia happen to witness what looks like a horrible accident but may be a murder, they have no choice but to work together to find the guilty parties before they fall victim themselves.

Now here's an important tip.

The Woman Who Rode to the Moon is not a lesbian genre novel. The two sleuths do not end up in each other's arms. I mention this because if you expect the book to be about lesbians, you'll be disappointed, and that would be a real

shame given the extraordinarily high quality of this novel. Johnson creates vivid characters who inhabit a terrifying and utterly realistic world. The violence is brutal but never gratuitous. She ties together the seemingly unre-

lated subplots with finesse and complete credibility. *The Woman Who Rode to the Moon* is well worth your time and treasure.

Note: This is the second Cordelia Morgan mystery. I have not read the first, but I intend to. ▼

FILM

Around the world and back



An unusual offering of two documentaries at the Castro Theatre, *Letters Not About Love* and *Human Remains*, plays for two days only, Tues.-Wed., May 2-3. *Letters* is director Jacki Ochs' collage of home movies, archival pictures and new footage, based upon the five-year correspondence between Bay Area poet Lyn Hejinian and Russian poet Arkadii Dragomoshchenko. It started as a word game: Ochs gave both poets a list of ordinary words (home, book, neighbor) as spurs for their imagination and their correspondence. The result is far from ordinary: scenes from such diverse events as a demolition derby in the States, and a sunbathing queue

in the former Leningrad (shown here). Score by Larry Ochs; narrated by Lili Taylor and Victor Nord.

The banality of evil is the theme of director Jay Rosenblatt's *Human Remains*, which creates portraits of five infamous dictators: Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Joseph Stalin, Francisco Franco and Mao Tse Tung — what a lot of fun guys. It's up close and personal, as we learn about the tyrants' favorite foods, films, and — ewww! — their sex lives. The horrors these men were responsible for are never described, but they can't be forgotten, so evil is a definite subtext. Sounds like difficult but rewarding documentary fare at the Castro. Info: call 621-6120. ▼

The secret of life

by Marv. Shaw

Never Eat In by David Leddick; Serpent's Tail, \$15.99

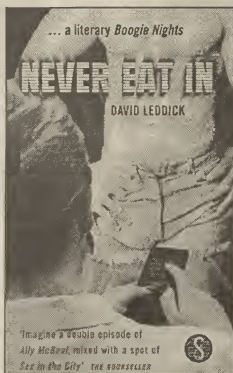
What better way to demonstrate the emergence of social change than through the life transformations of an experienced, bright, creative, and utterly bored woman of 38 as she leaves behind the middle-class, soon-to-be middle-aged impediments of a dead-end life? Nina de Rochemont (her married name) dares to develop a crush on a magnificent hunk in an erotic video she comes upon more or less accidentally.

As the story begins, Nina is applying her writing skills to a job in advertising. This hustling field shows her how to be creative and ruthless — and, miraculously, brings her the magnificent hunk Graham Grant, who soon proves himself attractive in ways other than having the world's greatest abs.

Graham's main source of income is "acting" in erotic videos, and he is completely open about them — and the things he is called upon to do in them. The world of advertising art and its corresponding one of sex films bring Nina an awareness of human potential previously unknown — and life-enhancing far more than her devoted wife-and-mother role.

The lesson of *Never Eat In* brings the reader Nina's key to life's possibilities — it's a simple matter of daring to do much that had formerly always seemed improbable and probably forbidden.

As her life becomes richer, Nina finds new possibilities in the



fashion world, the advertising game, and the *sub rosa* manipulations of erotic movies in New York, Hollywood, Miami Beach, and France. At her heels — but more frequently all over her body — comes Graham, who develops a deeper fascination for her, just as she does for him.

On the way, the various bodies and personalities of the people that Nina and Grant are playing with emerge in various roles, some pathetic, some ruthless, some far more clever than to be limited by the bourgeois boundaries they are all too glad to leave behind.

The book ends by bringing Nina yet another opportunity. Edwina, the boss lady on whom Nina has been modeling herself, confesses over the phone that she would love an affair with her. Nina, who is deeper than ever in love with Graham, feels a tug in a lesbian direction — and she doesn't really resist. ▼

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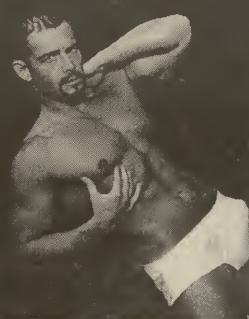
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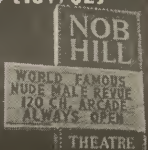
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Behind the Veil

Some years ago I spent about a week as a tourist in Kashmir, that glorious Garden of Eden at the base of the Himalayas in northern India — a place currently at the center of a fierce, bloody territorial and religious "dispute" between India and Pakistan. Culturally speaking, the region is mostly Muslim; the Indian rulers there are mostly Hindu. Everybody wants a piece of the place, because it's a land lavish with forests and saffron fields, enlivened by artisans, merchants, and beggars, and blessed with dashing handsome Muslim horsemen.

In the grand scheme of things, a week is nothing, yet it afforded me my first up-close, awe-inspiring glimpse at the marvels of art in the Muslim world. It made me realize how much the West owes to the East artistically. That's why I'm excited about the upcoming **Humanities West** program, **Behind the Veil**, opening this Friday, April 28, at Herbst Theatre.

Through a combination of engaging lecturers and live music, *Behind the Veil* will explore how European and American artists found inspiration in the world of Islam, and examine the fascinating differences between Western perception of Islam, and the Islamic reality.

You can count on Humanities West to deliver a good show. The feast of knowledge opens with what promises to be a highly stimulating lecture by novelist and independent film producer **Alev Lytle Croutier**, who will offer her take on how 19th century Europeans imagined the Islamic East as an erotic paradise where men could free themselves from the sexual repressions of their culture. By way of illustration, she'll look at famous art and literary portraits full of vivid wishful fantasies (One wonders what her take on the *Indiana Jones* movies would be, but then, we can pretty well guess).

After the lecture, world-class musicians will perform music inspired by the Ottoman empire and other Muslim realms.

On opening night, **Ravel's *Sheherazade*** unfolds with its haunting melodies, sung by soprano **Susan Lane Stokes** and bass/baritone **Philip Skinner**. The two will be singing that and other Western music rich with lyrics and melodies based on Islamic sources. Expect to hear selections from Mozart and Rossini, along with the exotic *Six Poems Arabes*.

On Saturday lectures range from a look at Islamic influences among famed Renaissance painters, how 19th century European painters flocked to Egypt for inspiration, how American painters took to the Orient, and how Orientalism influenced Western architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright. ▼

Behind the Veil takes place April 28 (8-10:15pm) and 29 (10am-4pm) at Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. \$30 Fri.; \$25 Sat.; \$50 both days. Info/tix: 392-4400.

Topless male models display glamour gloves in the "1st Annual Bohemian Arts Ball" at Jezebel's Joint. See Saturday.



Martin Sheehy

Fri

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project

"Out By Myself," a queer festival of one-woman shows. Tonight, Part I: Yolanda S. Vierra Allen (Universal Rhythm Song with Native-Tree); Ardy Tibby (storyteller); Pragma Choudhury (North Indian dance/martial arts/spoken word/prayer); Jennifer Hirano (soliloquy, song, & private dance); and Nancy Irene Kelly (parody of an overly serious second-year creative writing student). \$14 adv; \$17 door. 8pm. Also on April 29. 2940 16th St. #216-C. Tix at Mama Bears Women's Bookstore, Oakland and A Different Light Bookstore. 863-2989. Surf: www.lunasea.org

Art for AIDS Awareness

Pre-sale and donor reception: Maitri and Bay Area art students present their first ever, "one weekend only, cash and carry" student art sale, a benefit for Maitri. Students from SF Art Institute, Academy of Art College, Calif. College of Arts and Crafts, City College, Richmond Art Center, SF State and Stanford will be selling their art on Sat. & Sun. Sponsored by ArtMeca.com. \$25 minimum donation (reception only; weekend art sale open to the public 10am-9pm at no charge). 7-10pm reception. Old Fireman's Credit Union Bldg., 2390 Market St. (at Castro). Info: www.maitrisf.org.

New Langton Arts

The Actor's Collective presents Tony (Angels In America) Kushner's *The Illusion*, about a boy who's a troubling enigma, a girl with a fierce, conquering heart, and a meddler who's made a mistake. Kushner's play reworks Pierre Corneille's classical French fairytale with contemporary wit and genius.

\$12-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Thru May 20. 1246 Folsom St. (btwn 8th & 9th streets). 789-8558.

The Lab

Opening reception: "Knowing You, Knowing Me," an exhibition curated by Dale Smith, including works by eight artists from the Bay Area, Italy, and Switzerland. "Many of the artists' works tackle identity issues via a discourse of their own bodies or desires or both." Kris Komater, among them, celebrates Bears in his photography. Co-sponsored by the Consul General of Switzerland. Free. 6-9pm. 2948 16th St. (at Capp).

Theater Artaud

"Danza Floricanto" presents authentically staged, fully researched and colorfully costumed dance representing the folkloric traditions of 17 different states of Mexico. Plus excerpts from *Si Se Puede* — Yes You Can, a contemporary work inspired by the life of farm workers' activist Cesar Chavez. \$15. 8pm. Also on Apr. 29. 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

Marin Veterans Memorial Auditorium, San Rafael

Namsay Dorje Theater Com-

pany presents "The Life of Padmasambhava," transformatioal Tibetan theatre. Featuring Huur Huur Tu throat singers of Tuva, Siberia; Kathakali Dance Company of South India; Tibetan Lama orchestra; Taos Pueblo corn dancers; medicine chiefs of the Lakota Sioux, and much more. A benefit for Tibet House, SF. \$15-\$45. 7:30pm (2pm Sun.). Thru Sun., 4/30. SAN Rafael. Info: (415) 721-4147. Tix: 472-3000 and at BASS outlets.

Sat

Southern Exposure

"Circus SoEx," Southern Exposure's Spring Benefit. Under the big top: "Astounding & Astonishing Feats & Side shows; Circus of the Stars Art Auction; Curious Cabinet with Novelities & Oddities by Local Artists; Mouth-watering Concessions." Torch jugglers, fire dancers, belly dancers, body painters & more. Southern Exposure is a venerable nonprofit artists' organization in the Mission District. \$25 adv.; \$30 door (\$40 includes 1-yr. membership to

A scene from *Grounds*, screening at El Rio Outdoor Cinema. See Tuesday

Southern Exposure). 8-11pm (live auction 9pm). Project Artaud, 401 Alabama St. (at 17th St.). Tix: 863-2141.

First Presbyterian Church, Oakland

Voices: Lesbian Choral Ensemble presents an evening of "Songs of Love and Freedom: A Celebration of Twelve Years of Singing." The program will feature musical selections from a wide variety of styles and cultures, including folk, jazz, salsa, and contemporary music. Wheelchair-accessible; sign-language interpreted. No scents, please. \$10 adv.; \$12 door; \$8 students/seniors. 7:30pm.

San Francisco State University

Opening reception: "2000 MFA Graduate Thesis Exhibition," featuring work in installation, textiles, mechanical sculptures, videos, masks, ceramics, photography and mixed media by six talented artists. Free. 2-4pm. Fine Arts Gallery, Fine Arts Bldg., SFSU, 1600 Holloway. 338-6535.

Jezebel's Joint

"1st Annual Bohemian Arts Ball," an evening of funtime, multicultural art, wandering minstrels, (anti) fashion, video and more, hosted by comic performance artist Dee Dee Russell, self-declared "Queen of Cable Access" for her weekly broadcast on San Francisco's CityVisions Cable Access Channel 29, "Dee Dee TV" (Wednesdays, 9pm). Events: Super Duper Freaky Daddy Dave lights his genitals ablaze (fire extinguisher on hand); topless male models exhibit unisex glamour gloves by Linda Lorraine. \$5 if wearing campy, creative or fetish costumes; \$15 otherwise. 8pm-2am. 510 Larkin St. (at Turk). 345-9832.

550 Barneveld,

Thump Radio presents "Thump," an all-night dance party for all trance freaks and their friends (bring glowsticks). In the Trance Quadrant: Cosmosis (Transient Records, UK), one of the godfathers and pioneers of the global Goa/psychedelic-trance movement, performing live for the first time in SF. \$15 till midnight; \$20 after midnight. 550 Barneveld, SF. Info: 441-1899

Sun

Gay Asian Pacific Alliance

"gap-a-rap" presents "Hit the Road, Jack!" — a frank discussion for gay Asian Pacific men about their gay travel experience. Meets informally each month at members' homes. Facilitated by Dan Chin. Food provided. Free. 6pm. Info: 282-GAPA or email: gapa@slip.net.

Lake Merritt Rowing Club, Oakland

San Francisco Bay Blades, a

gay/lesbian rowing club, is hosting a recruitment orientation and picnic. 11:30am. Boathouse, Lake Merritt Rowing Club. To register, call Vern at (415) 558-8671.

Mon

Piaf's

QComedy.com openly presents "Gay Comedy Showcase," hosted by Nick Leonard, featuring "an exemplary selection of the best of San Francisco comics." \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 541-5610.

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute classes begin: "Introduction to Lesbian Psychology" with Beth Richman (4 Mondays, May 1-22; 7-9pm; \$75); and "20th Century Transgender History and Experience" with Candice Brown Elliott (3 Mondays; May 1-15; 7-9pm; \$40). 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Registration: 552-7200.

A Traveling Jewish Theatre

Opening night; world premiere; double bill: "Goodbye and Good Luck" by Grace Paley, directed by David Dower, in which Rosie Lieber looks back on a romantically independent life with the Valentino of the Yiddish Theatre, and "The Jewbird" by Bernard Malamud, directed by David Dower, in which the Cohen family's home is invaded by a bird named Schwartz. Co-presented with Word for Word. \$20 (\$17 seniors; \$10 students; Thursdays are pay-what-you-can at the door). 8pm (2pm & 7pm Sun.). 470 Florida St. 399-1809.

Tue

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

The Eifman Ballet troupe of St. Petersburg, Russia, makes its Bay Area debut with Boris Eifman's full-length ballet, "Tchaikovsky — The Mystery of Life and Death." It explores Tchaikovsky's homosexuality, how it manifested, and the effect it had on his life and work. \$35-\$55. 8pm. Thru May 4. Located in the Marina District at 3301 Lyon St.. Info: 392-4400.

El Rio

El Rio Outdoor Cinema kicks off its third season with a Benefit Bash featuring live bands, food, and films by local Latinos. Proceeds help director Dolissa Medina complete her first film, "Grounds," which tells the story of the filmmaker's great grandmother during the Mexican Revolution. Screening tonight: Veronica Majano's "Calle Chula," examining gentrification in the Mission; Maya Tillman Salas'

"Move," which grooves on music getting under your skin; and a film by Alfonso Alvarez. Silent art auction. Live music by Sangano (Latin blues rock) and the punk group Mito. Mexican folk art raffle courtesy Galeria de la Raza/Studio 24. \$8-\$15 sliding. 6-11pm (food served 6-7:30pm). 3158 Mission St. (at Precita). 282-3325.

A Different Light

Reading & book signing: *Quickies 2*, edited by James Johnstone. Erotic gay men's tales from the mouth of local contributors R.E. Gray, David Ford, Richard L. Haggen, Matthew R.K. Haynes, Alan Mills, David Mueller, Christian Muncy, Michael V. Smith, Simon Sheppard, horehound

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Brenton Cheng, Krista DeNio and Angela Bausch converge in 7pm Rumour at Venue 9. See Thursday.

stillpoint, Bob Vickery, and A. Vincent Williams. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Exit Theatre

Opening night: "Salvador Dali Talks to the Animals," by Dan Carbone. The late painter returns to dig up the forgotten fragments of his life and shove them in your face. Directed by John Sowle. Part of Absurdist Season 2000. \$10 (\$8 seniors/students). 7pm. Tue/Wed thru May 24. Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy St. 673-3847.

Exit Cafe

Opening night: "The Beard" by Michael McClure, one of the original Beat writers along with Kerouac, Ginsberg and Burroughs, and who continues to be a dynamic presence on the Bay Area poetry scene. "The Beard," first performed in 1965 at the Actor's Workshop in SF (and shut down by the police after the fourth performance), is primal, dirty and amusing, exposing the human being as its true form: a creature with throbbing genitalia that is aroused by the slightest knee-jerk reaction. Directed by Jacqueline Blackman; featuring Adam Chipkin and Jen Fitch. Part of Absurdist Season 2000. \$10 (\$8 seniors/students). 7pm. Tue/Wed thru May 24. 156 Eddy St. 673-3847.

Mission

Dolores Basilica

The Golden Gate Men's Chorus, directed by Grammy award winning director Joseph Jennings, presents "Messe Cum Jubilo." The 40-voice ensemble is dedicated to giving voice to the gay community

with a repertoire that draws on the rich traditions of male choral singing. This evening of sacred music centers on Maurice Duruflé's mass of the same name, with organ accompaniment. \$15. 8pm. 370 Dolores St. (at 16th St.). Tix at A Different Light Bookstore, on the web at www.ticketweb.com, at the door, or by calling 668-GGMC.

Marines Memorial Theatre

"Stomp," the acclaimed percussion performance, featuring eight athletic young percussionists who "make a rhythm out of anything we can get our hands on that makes a sound." \$35-\$40 Tue., Wed., Thu.; \$40-\$45 Fri. Sat., Sun. matinee; \$25 Sun. eve. 8pm (4pm & 9pm Sat.; 3pm & 7pm Sun.). 609 Sutter St. (at Mason). Tix toll-free at (877) 771-6900 or BASS outlets.

UCSF School of Nursing

Reading and book signing: Kate Scannell, MD speaks about her memoir, *The Death of the Good Doctor*. In it she tells of working in a county hospital AIDS ward where much of the medicine she had studied and taught was irrelevant. She will talk about this life-changing experience, her subsequent ovarian cancer, and her career as an out lesbian physician. Free. Noon-1pm. University of California at San Francisco School of Nursing, Rm. N-225, 513 Parnassus Ave. Info: UCSF LGBT Resources, 502-5593.

SF Medical Society

Public forum: "Drug Testing: The New McCarthyism," fea-

turing author and commentator Barbara Ehrenreich as keynote speaker. Sponsored by Linds Smith Center-West. Free (space limited). 5-7pm. 1409 Sutter Ave. (at Franklin). Reservations: 921-4987.

Wed

A Different Light

Reading & book signing: *Hot and Bothered 2*, edited by Karen Tulchinsky. Hot lesbian shorts as read by local contributors. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Thu

New College Theater

"Queer Thursdays @ New College," a film and discussion series. Tonight: Filmmakers Susan Stryker and Victor Silverman present their work-in-progress, "Looking for Compton's," chronicling the quest to recover the story of the 1966 Compton's Cafeteria Riot, a street-queen uprising in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood. Free. Open to all. 7:30pm. 777 Valencia St. (at 19th St.).

San Francisco State University

Preview: "Mother Courage and Her Children" by Bertolt Brecht, directed by Kenn Watt. Musical direction by Richard Link. A darkly comic tale of survival during war, set in Germany during the Thirty Years' War of 1618-1948. The fertility and inescapability of war are Brecht's major themes. \$11 (\$9 students/seniors/preview).

Studio @ Rhino

Preview: First Seen presents "Two Days of Grace at Middleham" by Toni Press-Coffman. Set in the ruins of Middleham Castle, the play juxtaposes the story of Richard III's life and marriage with that of a 21st century gay relationship. It explores the unchanging nature of the human heart and the impact of the past on contemporary life. \$15 (\$18 Fri. & Sat.). 8:30pm (5pm & 8:30pm Sat.). The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute classes begin: "Creating More Professional Photographs" with B.A.R. photographer Rick Gerharter (4 Thursdays; May 4-25; 7-9pm; \$80); and "Self-Defense for Women" with Women Defending Our-

selves (4 Thursdays; May 4-25; 6:30-9:30pm; \$55-\$150 sliding). 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Registration: 552-7200.

Venue 9

"7pm Rumour," a convergence of stories in movement and text. Produced by Brenton Cheng. Directed by acclaimed European theater director and choreographer Angus Balbernie. Devised with performers Angela Bausch, Brenton Cheng, and Krista DeNio. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. May 4-7 & 11-14. 252 Ninth St. (at Folsom). 289-2000.

Yerba Buena Center

SF Cinematheque presents "When the Spirit Moves: Live Music for New Films" by veteran filmmaker David Michalak and Reel Change. Live music for Michalak's recent works, including the explosive and radiant *Firefly* (2000); the mosaic honeycombs of *Regenbogen* (1999); and the world premiere of a new score for the rarely screened *Fall of the House of Usher* (1928). Champagne reception follows. \$7 (\$4 seniors/students). 7:30pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St.).

ODC Theater

Potrzebie Dance Project and Dandelion Dance Theater team up to present new works and selections from their repertoires. Choreographer Chris Black of Potrzebie and her troupe dance pieces she developed during her Djerassi Artists Residency. \$15 (\$12 students/seniors). 8pm. Thru May 13. 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

Haines Gallery

Opening reception: "Rob Craigie: The Opposite of Scientist." Craigie's body of work results from two years' scientific/adventure travel to Russia, Papua New Guinea, and the South Pacific. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. 49 Geary St., 5th floor.

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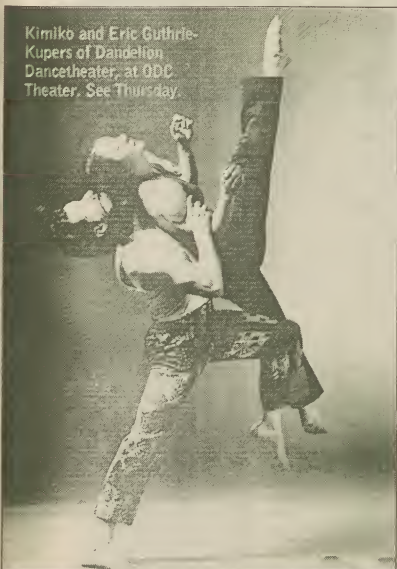
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Kimiko and Eric Guthrie-Kupers of Dandelion Dance Theater, at ODC Theater. See Thursday.

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LEATHER SCENE



Leather in history: The crowd in Chicago went wild in May, 1991 when "D" Cannon was chosen Int'l. Mr. Leather 1991. With him on stage were (left) the late Mitch Johnson (Mr. SF Leather 91), second runner-up, and Troy Leonhart of Baltimore, MD, first runner-up. This year's edition of the extravaganza takes place in Chicago on Memorial Day Weekend.

Experience International Mr. Leather 2000

by Mister Marcus

In just a few short weeks, the nation's second-biggest leather gathering (after San Francisco's Folsom Street Fair) will take place in Chicago. The International Mr. Leather Contest and weekend started some 22 years ago, and participation has steadily climbed. Last year alone, almost 3,000 people of the leather persuasion attended.

Hundreds more non-leather types turned out just to be part of the leather milieu, ogling the people who gather there for a gigantic celebration of their chosen lifestyle. Wall-to-wall eye candy filled the lobby of the host Congress Hotel, not to mention the stairwells and other convenient nooks in the aging beauty.

The lead-up to this event has been underway since as early as last October. Leather contests (almost 40 at last count) have taken place at the bar, city, state and regional levels. Even so, much remains to be accomplished. As of last Sunday, April 23, only seven contestants had bothered to send

in their application forms. Hard to believe, isn't it, that after all these years, sponsors are not in tune with what is happening? Get those applications in, guys!

But don't let the missing paperwork dampen your enthusiasm. Much is going on, and you can catch up on the happenings by going to your Web browser and clicking on <<http://imrl.com/index.html>>. There you can peruse the weekend schedule (officially, the gathering runs Thursday, May 25 through Monday, May 29), learn about the contestants, find out who will be entertaining (and maybe who won't), assess the hotel situation, size up the judges, be reminded of past winners, and scope out the merchandise being offered by vendors who will be displaying their wares. Bring your plastic. There should be something you don't really need but will just have to buy in the leather market.

If you're contemplating entering the competition, remember, the deadline for all contestants is May 15. All you bar, city, state and regional title winners better get on your sponsor(s) to get your applications in pronto — this is no joke! If you don't have one in hand, the application form is downloadable from the Int'l. Mr. Leather web site. Do it today!

The emcees for this year's contest and show are Frank Nowicki, the veteran emcee of all emcees, teamed up with Tom Stice from Atlanta, who was also the International Slave way back when. The featured disco diva this year is Bonnie Pointer, so the whole thing under the direction of Bill Stadt should prove momentous for the new millennium.

Now that I've whetted your appetite for the event, here's how you can order your tickets: dial toll-free 1-800-545-6753 with your plastic in hand, or email the organizers with your full name, address, phone number, and Visa, MC or Amex info, and let them know the number of tickets you want at \$125 each. All ticket orders will be under the name you give in your email.

While in Chicago, don't forget that the Mr. Ebony in Leather contest taking place on Thursday night, May 25 at the world famous Cell Block Bar. The event starts at 2000 hours. The admission price is only \$5. Our own Queen

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, April 27

Mr. October 2001 bare chest contest at the Powerhouse, at 2130. Win \$100 and fame. Do your part for the community the easy way.

Weekend April 28-30

American Brotherhood Weekend in Washington, DC, with selection of American Leather Man, Woman and Boy. Hosted at Washington Plaza Hotel along with all the MMOW craziness in town.

Boys Training Camp 2 in Dallas by Dean Walradt and other heavy-duty players in the genre. Some of the proceeds to the LA&M in Chicago. For more info, surf www.leathernetwork.com/subboy.

In the Bay Area, the Constantines MC weekend bike ride to Reno. For more info, email bladen-zee@aol.com.

Saturday, April 29

Pegasus MOC weekend run to Rio Vista. Sorry, no details had been made available at my deadline.

Sunday, Apr 30

ICF Biker Day, beginning with a bike blessing in front of Daddy's at 0900, followed by a ride around the Bay Area and a beer/soda bust at around 1500 at the Eagle, hosted by the Knights of Malta; \$8; food galore.

In Washington, DC, it's the annual Silent Bid for Life at the DC Eagle at 2000 to benefit Brother Help Thyself. Original artwork of local and international artists.

Wednesday, May 3

Leathermen's Discussion Group at Club Eros, at 1930. The subject tonight: "So I'm Kinky; What does that mean spiritually?" It's free and the Defenders of SF will be there. Click on: www.leatherweb.com/ldg.

Thursday, May 4

Mr. SF Drummer & Drummer Boy contests at Daddy's tonight at 2100. Emcee Lenny Broberg. \$7 beer/soda bust with raffles and auction. Apps now available at Daddy's. Produced by Eric Keith.

Sex pigs on parade

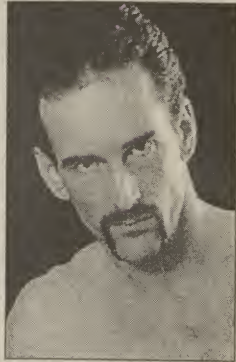
by John F. Karr

Look where my infatuations lead — into some pretty rough waters. This week's heartthrob is Rick Allen, who's one of those lean and mean, rangy fellows. He's got a diving board body with one of those long, scimitar cocks that curves up so far he can shove it in his mouth. Which he does with a nasty kind of glee. And that's just one of the reasons I love him. The others are on ample display in two new videos.

Biker Pigs from Hell 2 may have some laughingly implausible plotting, but gets it out of the way pretty quickly to let a bunch of rowdy fellows have raunchy sex. Perhaps befitting a flick about greasers, this is no glamour product. The picture quality is grainy, the lighting is harsh, the sets ramshackle, the improbable dialogue clumsily delivered. But the guys fuck like pigs.

Just don't mistake the opening exposition for *Bye, Bye Birdie*. Teenage girls aren't the only ones who like to talk on the phone about boys, you know, and these biker pigs have to scope out who's coming to the evening's initiation of biker piglets. Here's my guy, Mr. Allen, worried that the scene will get too fucked up and brutal. He doesn't want to get spit on or smacked. Whoops! Wouldn't you know — he's fucked up every way possible by the forceful Eduardo, who forgets to smack him, but does spit on him. Allen takes it — and takes it — with nasty vigor and enviable staying power.

So the biker dudes are hanging around their clubhouse naked under their chaps, when the cops arrive with their guns drawn — because of a noise complaint. I told you things were implausible. If I'm also a little skeptic about how quickly the cops give in to getting royally fucked by the biker pigs, that's pretty easy to rationalize; I'd do just the same. Here's Joe



Pick o' the week Rick Allen

Romero, getting ripely older, rougher round the edges and with a bit of a beer gut, and altogether quite authentic as a bad-boy biker, pouring motor oil over the typically hyper-ventilating though appreciably oversexed Cole Tucker, before poking Tucker's ass with the garden hose, several dildos, his nightstick, and finally, Romero's own, even stiffer cock.

The video also features Jackson Reid, Matt Bradshaw, Rod Berry and Sandy Sloan, all encouraged by director Bud McCoy to do their sloppy best. If I'm not wild about the video's momentary insertion of guns in body orifices, I can overlook that. *Biker Pigs from Hell 2* may be loosely made, but that allows a careening, wise-acre energy that delivers some messy, wham-bang sex.

Out from under

Rick Allen crawls out from underneath to become an invigorating top man in *3 Degrees of Humiliation*. This is a leather/fetish video from MSR Videos, the studio whose logo announces "Men

are Pigs," and whose videos allow them to amply demonstrate. *3 Degrees* director Jack Francis not only allows his men to parade an oversized sexuality that remains quite effective for being cunningly based in reality, but also permits moments of droll wit to tweak the action.

3 Degrees of Humiliation contains three strong scenes of psychosexual tripping in its solid hour, and my fave is the second, in which prissy businessman Will Clark is too afraid to act upon the lust he feels for his rough-trade gardener. This working-class fellow is none other than my man Rick Allen. In a swell star turn, Allen punishes Clark at length for his nervous nelly act. Clark manages to convey the torment of his abuse while simultaneously giving good sex, no mean feat, and the unforgiving Allen delivers some hyper-but-

ch behavior that isn't just histrionics. Man, does he shove it to Clark, who ends up plumped down on Allen's long dong, screwing every inch of it up his ass.

In the video's first scene, mean top Doug Jeffries picks

up flesh-peddler Michael Vista in West Hollywood, and takes him home to his playground, where he treats the guy as rudely as he can. Vista is tied to a cross, thrashed, stuffed with a bruiser dildo, and fucked. The last scene stars the over-the-top Cole Tucker, who spews verbal abuse, heavy rimming, novel forms of tit torture, cigar smoke, spit, and rude fucking on his slave dog Robert Black. Those of you who find ecstasy in sexual disgrace will groove on *3 Degrees of Humiliation*. I only wonder why it isn't longer. The first and last scenes have some mighty quick cuts, and I'd hate to think there's footage left on the cutting-room floor. ▼



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Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Cougar will co-encore with Frank Nowicki. See the cream of the crop of our black brothers in competition with a sterling panel of judges. Men of all colors welcome!

Drum beats

Looking beyond Int'l. Mr. Leather, the International Mr. Drummer contest is coming this year to St. Petersburg, Florida the weekend of September 21-24. Many of the regional contests have already been scheduled, and the host hotel is already sold out. But don't panic yet: economical hotel rooms are still available nearby. If you click on: www.drummer.com, the Web work-in-progress lays it all out for you, with everything you need to know in order to plan your attendance at the event.

The above-mentioned event occurs only one weekend before San Francisco's Leather Pride Week, which includes the Leather Walk and the Folsom Street Fair, so plan on skipping across the country this fall.

Coming up much sooner are the first regional contest — Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer 2000 — which takes place in Dallas the weekend of May 19-21, and the Mr. Southwest Drummer 2000



Int'l. Mr. Leather 1991 "D" Cannon shared the spotlight with his "title" wife, Kay Hallanger, Int'l. Ms. Leather 1991, on their night of triumph in Chicago.

contest that same weekend, taking place in Phoenix.

A tid-bit more

Quietly and with little fanfare, the Mr. SF Leather 2000 chair, Patrick Batt, presented a check of \$2,400 each to the AIDS Emergency Fund and to the Shanti Project, the beneficiaries of the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2000 contest. I am sure they can make good

use of the funds. Thanks to all for your support.

Finally, on Sunday, April 30, while in D.C., Int'l. Mr. Leather 2000 judge Jim Dohr will be celebrating his 50th birthday and would like nothing better than a good flogging by every hunk around. Be careful, Dotty, what you wish for. Isn't that right Werner Tillinger (now saddled with a hungry dog for life)? ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

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Lots of eye contact. Me w/son both dark suits. You maroon sweater w/ friend in suit. If not lovers, let's talk & more. Call me. ☎ 71788

Thur 3/30 9am-18th & Diamond
Me: catching exstbound Muni #33. You: getting into SUV, smiled, said too bad I wasn't going up the hill. Wish I had. You can give me a ride anytime! ☎ 71790

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Thank you for flowers. Call Owen. ☎ 71811

I C U Everywhere! Never Met
Always a hit & miss. You attempted to speak to me on platform (sweaty body shirt off) just. You: short grayish brown hair, usually wear blue/yellow tank on warm days, always energetic, smug smile, deep eyes, 5'10", 170lbs. Me: br/hryes, goatee, usual GANT redcap. Let's fuse our energies. ☎ 71812

Kevin Saturday Night 4/1 @ Eros
We kissed some more on the stairway landing. You dressed and we spoke about missing NYC. I'm back 4/12. Please call and let's get together again. Michael. ☎ 71813

John We Met Briefly On April 7
Around 4pm on a beautiful day. Would like to spend some time getting to know you if possible. Can I buy you a cup of coffee? I'm also John! ☎ 71809

Wed. March 22 Rockridge Bart
You: black shirt, jacket and jeans, prematurely white hair. I'm confused by your ring. You knew I was interested. You flashed a dazzling smile and spoke as you detoured. S 71764

Blow Buddies 4/14
You: 6'2" ish, cap, GL, hairy chest, tattoo on back shoulders. Me: 5'9", leather cap, beard, hairy chest, pierced navel. Think we could have fun alone! ☎ 71835

Joshua From Improv Class
Wish you hadn't left early in the semester. I wanted to get to know you better. Call me. Lawrence. ☎ 71810

Kabuki Saturday Evening 8 Apr.
You're a big, beautiful bear. I'm a lean, hairy, bearded, blue-eyed man. I winked at you on my way out around 9pm. Anytime fella... ☎ 71836

Bob Of Westlake Have Glory
Call me 4 u in my basement, massage room. Have a 4 hot mouth BJ, u have my number. Jack. ☎ 71789

Fri April 14 7:30am N Judah
You: GAM, brown hair. Our eyes met-you smiled. Me: GWM, brown jacket getting off at Duboce late for work- couldn't talk. Would like to meet you. Call me please. ☎ 71837

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Hi My Name Is Ralph, I Am A Bi
White male looking for a female woman. Between 18-28 years old, to date + marry someday. I can bring happiness to them. ☎ 71816

Hot French Love
French guy in 30's or 40's desired for more than friendship by hung romantic blue eyed European in 30's. ☎ 71727

Seeking Hispanic/Blond Blue18-21
I'm Hispanic, blk, hr, brn, eyes olive complexion, 24yrs. 157lbs. HIV-. Considered good looking comments made. Prefer significant other/friends HIV- No over-weights/fems. ☎ 71728

Leather Dad ISO Boy
Intelligent, masc dom WM 57, 6', 225, ISO fit White or Latin boy for play & LTR in Oakland dungeon/playroom. ☎ 71734

Love me Tender I'll be Only 4 you
I'm 36, 5'5", 142lbs. Latino, hot, horny, clean, educated, stable, nice tool 8". HIV+ healthy, masculine, seeking GM under 41 for romance. ☎ 71729

What Matters Comes After Sex
My penis and frame are small. My heart is big and my spirit universal. I'm cute, compassionate, honest, HIV+, loyal, smart, funny, stable, and a sturdy 51. I return calls. ☎ 71730

Black Seeks Cute White Guy
I'm 27, handsome, 5'10", slim, muscular body, seeking cute clean shaven slim caucasian 5'8" to 6', masculine with fair skin and eyes for sincere dating 18-45 student/professionals. ☎ 71731

Handsome GBM
39yo GBM, 6'3", 185lbs, lean swimmers build, prof. vers. top, HIVneg, safe, ISO, gym toned male any race HIVneg, 30-45, for dating and possible LTR. ☎ 71733

SF Senior Seeks Younger Man
GWM, 76, 165, seeks attr, honest, sincere, submissive 18-45yo man for ongoing sex. I'm dominant but loving, caring and respectful. Open to LTR with right man. ☎ 71735

Seeking Matured Man
Searching for matured man late 50's to 60's, weight proportioned to height that would enjoy being serviced periodically. No reciprocation necessary. Must have your own place. ☎ 71736

Just A Call Away
GWM, 42, 6'3", 200lbs, HIV-, S&P hair, gm eyes, handsome, seeks prof. interested in travel, music & entertaining. HIV-only pls. Let's chat. ☎ 71737

Reward Me
With your great looks and nice body. Show me your sexy erotic naked needs. Be ready for me. ☎ 71839

An Ordinary Man?
I'm behind you in your face, close your eyes. Bewildering spontaneous, pretentious and a smart ass to boot. Let me be your alibi, figure me out my friend. ☎ 71791

Senior Seeks Seniors...
For good fellowship and vigorous man-to-man sex. Call for details. In SF. ☎ 71841

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking 34yo/ dark hair brown eyes goatee, professional. Looking for GWM between 26-40yo for friendship. Me: like going to dinner, movies, travel, hiking, biking, just call. ☎ 71814

Good Looking Down To Earth
GLM, 34, 5'10", 175, HIV+, bottom & submissive, hairy, clean shaven, good looking, in-shape, looking for attractive muscular, masculine top, dominant Black male, 35-45, for LTR. ☎ 71815

My Dream/Your Dream?
GM, clean cut, disease free, wt. prop. 40's (age unimportant), seeks same who feels sharing thoughts, feelings, dinner & bed, are important enough to seek out friendship & possible LTR. ☎ 71817

Good looking Latino
I'm single, 29yrs old, 5'7", 165lbs. stocky muscular, dark features, seeking Latinos or Whites 40 for friendship or for building a monogamous LTR. NS guys only. ☎ 71818

Affectionate And Sincere
Looking for honest affectionate, fun-loving bottom, mid to late 50's, trim, fit, & masculine. I know how to cuddle and kiss and a few other things. ☎ 71819

Old-Fashioned Romantic Taurus
GWM (40's, 5'10", 175#, goatee, brn eyes, killer smile), seeks Hispanic 30-45 into quiet evenings, rainy days, movies, cuddling for dating, poss LTR. Smokers ok. No drugs, heavy drinkers. ☎ 71820

Poz Leather Dad
50's WM 6' 185 seeks special boy: hairy, buzzed or bald, into tt, cbt, ft, light sm, bondage + romance. Any age-prefer mature, employed. Intensity sought. ☎ 71821

GWM, 5'11", 158lbs. 32w Bld.
Blue eyes wears glasses. Average build uncult n's rd HIV- ISO Latino or Bk, in good shape & health. I love kissing. ☎ 71765

More Than Just Another Hot Man
Goodlooking muscular professional GWM 40, 5'10", 190, 46c 31w 17arms seeks buddy into camping, hiking, photography for friendship, and possibly more. Not into drugs, booze. Serious replies only. Won't be sorry. ☎ 71766

Latinized WM Top ISO LM/AM/BM
Spirited, spiritual, passionate men of masculine strength/softness(muscularly defined, very in-shape 5'6", 145lbs, 30" w, HIV-, 48) seeks masculine toned sparky, affectionate bottom or versatile LM/AM/BM under 5'9". ☎ 71732

Looking For Life Partner
Professional top, Latin-looking 32yrs, 6', 150lbs. WLM romantic, loving and mo'ogamous man, 30+, not into bars. Like movies, laughter, intimate times and travel. No drugs. ☎ 71838

Above Ronnie
Daddy, we had our good times- with lots of bad- but even you say we deserve better. So let us give each other better- let us work it out. Love you. ☎ 71840

Got A Crotch Full Of Goodies?
I'm hooked on spurted cum, fresh hot piss, smelly cheese if uncult, licking sweat off big balls and rimming squeaky clean assholes there's no tomorrow (but no scat)! ☎ 71842

Seeking Sex Buddy
GWM, 54, 5'8", 185, brn/blue, HIV-, wishes to meet Randy GM who enjoys being jacked off by another guy. Let's play safely, but still have a good time. ☎ 71843

Husband Material
GWM, 42y.o., 200lbs, gm eyes, s&p hair, HIV-. Seeking 35 to 45yo. hairy top. I'm professional, easy going & financially secure. Like to travel, music, movies, have quality time w/that special guy. HIV-only. ☎ 71844

My Reward For Great Blow Jobs!
You shoot your max with my nimble tongue working under your glans--more for me to savor. ☎ 71792

You Can't Fake A Kiss
Brace, we met. It went well for a few days- We parted- come back to me daddy- You're all the man I'll ever need. ☎ 71793

Love Me Tender I'll Be Only 4 You
I'm 36, 5'7", 142lbs, Brazilian, hot, horny, clean, educated, stable, nice hard dick, masculine, seeking GM under 40 for friendship. After that romance, only love & love. ☎ 71845

Looking For Older Black Male
GWM, 45, 5'11", grn/br, 170, slim, prof. would like to meet Black masculine male 40-65 for dating or more. Me: HIV-, same, like dining out & romantic times. Call me. ☎ 71846

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Hairy Top Stud
Me: 39, 170#, 5'9", buzzcut, stache, muscular hairy chest, 8" cut, poz, aggressive, passionate total top; you: GWM, attractive, under 45, slutty, nasty bot-tomboy, eager to please horny daddy. ☎ 71738

Nipple Boy ISO Pec Daddy
30+ romantic butch GH seeks 40+ affectionate GM muscle top to lick worship titilate. Poz pref. ☎ 71739

Dominant Gentle Seniors
ISO slightly dominant but gentle, affectionate seniors 60+ who want sensual oral pleasure by a WM 44, 6', 160lbs, dk hr, husky, beard, groups a +, kink optional but no S&M, pain. ☎ 71740

My Ultimate Fantasy
Is serving as sex slave for two, hung, muscular tops: verbal abuse, bondage, water-sports, role plays, double anal penetration. I'm 6' buff, masculine mid 40's White boy. Use me! ☎ 71777

Shoot Your Load On My Face
If you're 65+ with a full load, this straight mature WM wants to get on your knees watch you JO. See, feel your hot cum on my face. ☎ 71741

Strip For Daddy
Husky. E. Bay Daddy, 56, ISO son, 25-35. Show Daddy and Daddy will kiss it. NS, ND, no perfrmes, sweaty ok. ☎ 71742

Cumshot Video
Hot 30yo exhibitionist seeking hung, hot open-minded men who consistently shoot much larger than average loads for a video project. Your cumshot my face. Serious only please. ☎ 71743

Grandfather Complex Anyone???
Lay down the law to this WWII vet by enjoying my expert mouth and tongue. Ass and assorted kink if desired. Sexual surrender offered to hunky top, any race Berkeley. ☎ 71744

Oil Turns Me On
36 5 10 180 GWM in good shape, looking for men into oil massage & sex, no attitude, race Human, humor can't hurt. ☎ 71745

18-30 Latinos Wanted
Seeking Latin me. you can be short or tall, a homeboy or cholo. Prefer smooth and uncult, shy, stocky. I have a thing for underwear, kissing and passion. ☎ 71746

Submissive for Hairy Master Type
GWM, 5'11", 145, 40, bln/blu, expert oral slave, cocksucker, butt eater (get chair) piss boy, body worshipper & licker pitt sucker etc. Take me as your own service pig for hairy man who feels his power as I do. ☎ 71747

Need Muscular Oral Tops
I'm looking to service good looking in shape guys. I'm 36, 5'6", 130lbs, clean cut, clean shaven, muscular, hairy chest. I like getting on my knees and taking orders. ☎ 71748

My Hand..... Your Dick.....
Intense erotic hand & mouth worker for your cock & balls. Your hard dick will gush w/relief at my coaxing, always free no fee-- your place. ☎ 71750

Black Dad Seeks.....
Dominant, tall, tanky, hairy white, top son (21-35) with clean, tight edible butt; big, cut cock. Dad: 40's, trim, wants to give oral pleasure or spanking. Dark hair A+. ☎ 71751

Looking for the Ultimate
Cocksucker for my big dick. Like it for a long time. Like deep throat. Attitude, energy, enthusiasm most important. Age, looks, race, not. ☎ 71752

Let's Play With It
Slip out our swollen penis bulbs & show 'em off. Slap & slide our stiff donks together, make 'em swing & sway. I'm 48, 5'9", 155, bald, furry, goodlooking. Verbal and/or Asian a+. ☎ 71847

Hot Top Hung 8" Seeks Bottoms
For fun. I am 5'7", 160lbs, work out hairy chest, blond, HIV-, 39, and handsome. You are sincere, friendly and want to play. ☎ 71753

Attn: Poz Arab-Amer Man Who
Had ad wanting dentured deathtrap expert. If you have a moustache, thick cock, hairy, built, call me. I'm tall, lean, furry, all man. ☎ 71773

Drill Me
GWM, 34, 6'1", 190# brown, green, glasses, pierced seeks hung tops 18-45 to fuck my ass. Safe only. Hairy a plus. Weekdays, your place pref. Couples okay. ☎ 71774

Play Doctor
It's been a year since my last physical. Give me a complete, nude scam- playful or humiliating, you decide. I'm late 30s/brn hairy chest. ☎ 71775

Hot White Or Latino Bottoms
Are wanted by 56yr White top with big 9" cut cock. I want to fuck your hot ass. I'm 6'0" tall brn blk brn, brn eyes, glasses. You be 18-37 smooth bodied. ☎ 71776

Naked Ecstasy
Free erotic full body massage for lean tight-bodied guys 20 to early 40's masculine lean WM 42. Any race, short or tall, hairy or smooth. ☎ 71778

I Want To Be Your Cocksucker
White, 46, hairy, green eyes, brown hair, 5'8", heavy. Cocksucker. Ready anytime. Prefer Black and Latino. I just want to suck you off then you leave. ☎ 71779

Front And Rear Oral Service
By eager GWM, 38, 5'8", 125#, gym toned. Into sucking, rimming, drinking piss. You: looking for service, White/Latino. Please be in shape. ☎ 71780

Hugs And Kisses For You
My arms hold what the world lacks. Me: attractive, top, 46, 6'5", 250lbs, husky. You attractive GM (White, Asian, Latin), slim, smooth/moderate body hair, nice buns. Good kisser a plus. ☎ 71794

Cocksucker Takes
Hot mouth in tongue on your big cut cock in balls. 4 in-shape WM, married, single, bi, gay, straight your place/mine. ☎ 71795

Hand Roast A Rump In Your Lap
With moderate heat, roast covered rump 15 minutes. Strip outer layer, raise heat and baste to pink. Uncover and broil 1 hour till flesh is red, tender and blazingly hot. ☎ 71851

Mid Peninsula Asian Cocksucker
42, 5'11", 185 likes giving head to guys under 45 with average boners w/no reciprocation, at your place. ☎ 71797

Tobacco Users
Attr. LM 43, 6', 150lb. ISO tobacco chewers or dip users for deep kisses & sensual times. Smokers welcome too. Over 40+ but all welcome. No gay scene, s&m, drugs. ☎ 71824

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
Seeking Relationship ☐
Seeking Adventure ☐
Lesbian ☐
Fetishes ☐
Couples ☐
Others ☐

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Mendocino Latin Bottom
33 very handsome 160lbs, 5'6", brown hair, clean cut, straight acting, deep throat, hot ass, seek well hung top. Dino. ☎ 71798

GWM Seeks Black Exhibitionist
32yo GWM seeks handsome Black stud who will jerk off while I watch close and personal. ☎ 71799

Black & White
Southbay, sensuous, hot, early 50's, safe, uninhibited, shaved, seeks photographer into black & white, for photo sessions, indoor/outdoor, will travel. ☎ 71800

Lip Service And More
By dedicated cocksucker, friendly, talented, 40's, short beard. Like trim, virile guys with big dicks. Fuck my face and give me a workout, buddy! My place, SF, car helpful. ☎ 71822

Asian Master
39yrs 5'6", 140lbs seeking slim, clean shaven, younger submissive boy slave for bondage, s&m. Leave message describing yourself. ☎ 71823

Top This
Sexy Hispanic ISO South/East Bay HIV-studs, age open, looks unimportant, any race. I'm 5'8", 154, hung, mature, cute white ass and cock for your pleasure. ☎ 71825

Stiff And Restless
Hot, masculine, big-dick Italian topman wants to "get-off" with in-shape, under 40, black, Asian, Latino, blue-collar White guys. Taps or bottoms. ☎ 71826

"Fuck Me Hard, Ooh Baby!"
ISO GWM/bi, disease free. Into playing my horny holes. Me vs! Asian 30's who is a willing cub. Call me or your loss, hurry up sweeties! ☎ 71827

Submissive Black Bottom
Seeks top dominant aggressive verbal. Likes for a guy to kick back. Available, some weekends & eves. ☎ 71828

Very Willing Submissive
WM, 42yo, 5'7", 145# HIV+ your ties, toys, blind folds anal workouts are great. UB dominant, older, taller, kinky. Everything goes no pain/scat your place only SF. ☎ 71829

Mature Nipples
WM, 57, seeking mature for safe rimming and heavy nipple work. Big tongue, beard, 6'190, thick cock. You 55 plus. ☎ 71859

Tantric Cocksucker Wanted
My big cock, your mouth- long, slow & deep. Pleasure not orgasm oriented. Can you surrender to the energy? ☎ 71830

Blackmen 8" Or More
GWM 5'8", 155 hairy seeks BM who are well endowed and enjoy receiving head fucking and or ff you won't be disappointed. ☎ 71831

ISO Ass & S&M Expert
I'm 5'2", 120lbs. 58yr bi-WM, HIV- submissive & craves teck's. Need you to travel to Yuba City for wk end or longer. Car, bus or train. ☎ 71832

Chubby, Fat, Stocky, Heavy-Set
GBM, 46yo., 5'11", 250lbs. seeks chubby & fat men for uninhibited safe sex. Discretion a must. Big tits, thighs, legs & butt a plus. ☎ 71848

2 Cocksuckers
Looking for hot, uncult cocks to suck off by a goodlooking couple who works as a team. ☎ 71849

Daytime/Playtime
I'm GWM, HIV+, top, 6', 185#s with days free seek playmate bottoms in Soma County for kissing, sucking, fucking! ☎ 71850

Latino Seek Gay Black Men
Age 39, 5'5", versatile, seeking GBM, 30-45 for hot and romantic sex encounters. ☎ 71749

Top White Boi Wants Asian
Bottom to service big dick. An 30, cute, clean, fling top. Enjoy servicing my dick suck it & sit on it. S.F. Weekdays. ☎ 71796

Viking ISO Masculine Man
Swedish GM, 42yo., 5'10", 145lbs. cobalt blue/dark blond, moustache, thin and fair, poz. ISO masc./muscular man w/ facial hair, poz, party animal, top, to have fun with. ☎ 71853

Bootlicking Fetish
Seek hunk to age 45 who will allow me to lick and polish boots. Especially excited my military, police & cowboy attire. ☎ 71854

Play With This
I've got big nipples, big half round bubble butt and big dick...which one do you want to play with? "Safe sex only" ☎ 71852

Got Dick??
Average GWM professional 50's, HIV-, 6'2", 200# non-gym, witty, down to earth, smoker, looking for nice guy with cut fat tool to orally service. ☎ 71855

Young Slave For Dog Training
Very cute 26yo. submissive boy from Eastern Europe wants to dog trained by a cute but demanding master(s). Full obedience and cooperation guaranteed. ☎ 71856

My Priorities For Your Crotch:
Convincing I/you I'm your world-class (A) cocksucker (B) rimmer (C) piss drinker (D) cheese eater (if mercifully uncult) I'm ready, but...are you? ☎ 71857

Got Foreskin?
VGL, 20yr GWM, ISO uncult White men to orally service. You be 18-35, masc., into kicking back for intense oral pleasure. Pluses: smooth/shaved, muscular, verbal, blond, hung. ☎ 71858

Asian Master Wants Slave
Asian Master wants to dominate and beat up GWM. You must be more than 190# and can take some pain. ☎ 71754

Asian Cocksucker Palo Alto 42
5'11"-190-lb, slt hair, bm eyes, seeks 36-46yo. guys to suck off. Have car will travel within the Peninsula, at your place. ☎ 71860

Santa Rosa. Hot Bottom
Great shape, 40, 175#, 6', bm/bm. Looking for in shape top. ☎ 71861

LESBIAN

Seeking Lesbian
GWM European 24 seeks Lesbian to share experience. ☎ 71781

FETISHES

Looking for the Ultimate Pig
Goodlooking, smooth, muscular, young top seeks human toilet (weekly feedings). New to scene but you won't be disappointed. Take care of my needs and this hot body is yours. ☎ 71755

Bondage Toys SM Can Be Fun
With this hot, smooth, muscular 33yr old top. Enjoy wonderful, sweet agony of being bound, controlled, stimulated and submitting to an experienced leather top, (or tops) after a thorough training. ☎ 71756

Foot Fetish
Looking for foot lovers to massage my feet. (size 9). ☎ 71757

Former Self Sucker
Slim Daddy type, beard, moustache (whose body's no longer flexible enough) would love to watch you blow yourself if this is your favorite sexual activity. ☎ 71758

Tit Play
Long time nipple freak, playful, oral, verbal, 5'4", 140lbs, 50, with big swollen nipples and an eager mouth and hands. Looking for other big nipple men for mutual pleasure. ☎ 71759

Tom Is A Cute Little Pig With...
A voracious appetite for scat. I love to watch him slow down as some handsome hunk feeds him. If you're a star quality exhibitionist, try this. ☎ 71760

Discreet Freak
You like it wet, raunchy asshole, funky underwear, low hanging balls, 9"to10" cock, versatile 25-50. Me, BM, 39, 6'1", 175lbs, 9" cut, handsome, versatile, let's get each other off. ☎ 71761

Brown And Yellow
Brown and yellow hankies, right side, is my style. Being relieved and pleased in those ways is yours. Tireless hot mouth and tongue. Invite me to hot dinner or lunch. ☎ 71762

Foot Worship: Foot Rubbing
Mutual foot contact toe wrestle, GWM, 37 seeks similar for foot play. ☎ 71783

Where To Go
To suck dick on Mon/Tues/Wed when Blow Buddies is closed? Mid-aged guy, beard, moustache, balding, craves study cock. ☎ 71784

Muscle Worship
Gdlyr- in shape aggressive slave for body builders. Must be muscle gods with arrogant masculine attitude & aggressive. Can travel S.F., Reno, Sac., Lake Tahoe. ☎ 71786

LTH Son Seeks 2 LTH Granddads
Blond bootlicker 45/HIV-As into s/m, b/d, w/s will give anal/oral service to 2 hot, hung tops, 65+ Do me daddies! ☎ 71801

I Love Bigger And Better
That make it worth the time & trouble of sucking you all the way. Your tool will love the way I suck it. (uncult a plus). ☎ 71802

ISO Jockstraps & Foreskin
GWM 46 daddy type ISO younger uncult boy with a dirty jock and mind into mutual sucking, rimming, j.e. Vided's, sweat, role play, toys, underwear, anything goes. Relationship possible. ☎ 71805

Eroticism In Bondage & S/M
G blonde & Asian couple, cute, muscular, 33 & 38, wishes to be stripped & tied up by G couple or single, under 40, submission, CBTT & more, switch roles will be great. ☎ 71804

Furry Lip And Open Throat?
I enjoy watching and feeling a thick moustache climbing and descending my thick manhood. No voice mail, beeper or work phone #'. Oakland. ☎ 71833

FFT Seeks Latin/Asian/Black FFB
Into getting punched and stretched. Me: GWM, 28, 6'2", 153#, stash, goatee. You: any age, speed free. A+ for facial hair, stocky flat top. Safe sex a must. ☎ 71863

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!!!! ☎ 71864

Master 48, Experienced-
Seeks whipping boy/bondage slave- eager to please, and serve. Subject should be 24-38 with some training and the real drive to belong. Subject delimited to the satisfaction of its master. Limits respected/expanded. S 71862

Very Thirsty Deep Throat
Expert has 6-pack for well endowed men who need sensual service. ☎ 71785

True Cocksucking Confessional:
This addict maximizes your production with creative head. Bigger loads off your mind for you. Yummier than caviar for me. Triple treat (uncult combo). ☎ 71803

Furry Lip And Open Throat?
Hung and horny East Bay man, 46, enjoys watching a moustache bouncing on his big stick. Too big for beginners. Please no beards or goatees, voicemail or work phones. ☎ 71865

COUPLES

Are You Our Boy?
Daddy/Boy couple interested in including Boy/Slave in family. We enjoy life and having fun together. You should too. Be submissive, stable & fun. Take a chance Boy. ☎ 71762

Seeking A Real Slave/Boy
Couple looking for slave/boy to include in our family. We enjoy life, having fun, and togetherness. You are submissive, dedicated, and ready for fun. Check us out boy! ☎ 71787

Want To Watch??? Join In???
Two men into fucking. Dom has huge stiff uncult cock. Sub is older, eager to get worked over. Slick action. ☎ 71806

OTHERS

"Prefer A Homo-Sexual Male...."
Older straight white Englishman is available to be sodomized & beaten by dispassionate vigorous man. ☎ 71763

Bisexual Deadhead
Seeks all cummers, m or f, singles or couples. Friendships, fuckbuddies, lovers, smoke, drinks, music & camping. Long play sessions leather, w/s, b/d all. Pluses. Long haired horny bottom pig. ☎ 71807

I'm Looking To Keep Up My
Language practice. Intense French romantic GWM 30's desires French boyfriend. Charming. Wild. Magical. Not into "tricky French games." How can we meet? ☎ 71808

Spirituality Book Group
Monthly reader's group surveys world faiths and ideas through biography, essay, fiction, sacred texts, and others. Non-denominational and open-minded. No previous knowledge or belief required. ☎ 71834

Swedish Girl
Swedish girl new to Bay Area. Having such a blast. Looking to make GM friends, interests, business etc... ☎ 71866

Mark your Calendars!
The **BAY AREA REPORTER** Gay Pride Issue is
just around the corner!

Our Annual
Gay Pride Issue
hits the streets on
June 22nd, 2000

DEADLINES

Display Ads: June 9 . 5:00pm

Line Ads: June 19 . 12:00pm

Inserts: June 9 . 5:00pm

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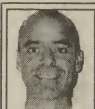
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BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

MASSAGE

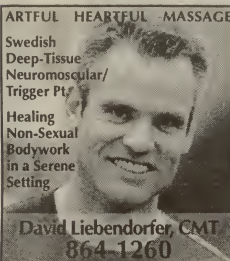


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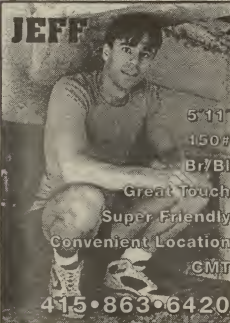
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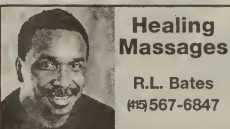


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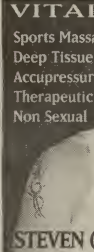
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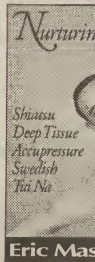
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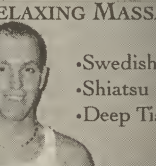
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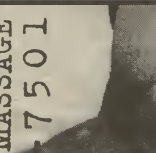
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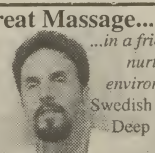
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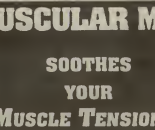
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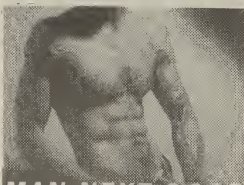
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Very sexy, beautifully hung, educated,
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you what you need & more 207-6486

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**HANDSOME BLUE-
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w/thick hairy muscles 6'215#
17", arms, 50" chest, 35" waist
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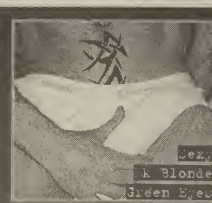
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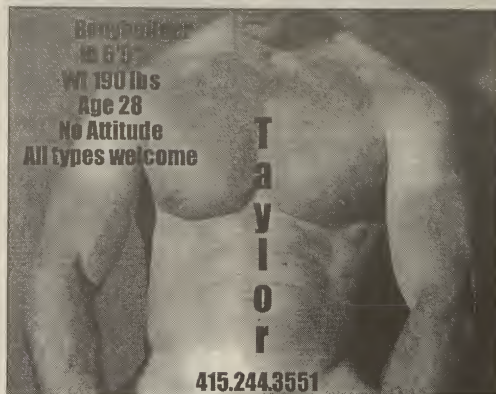
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Muscular 37 6'4" 200#
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E17

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Experienced reliable responsive
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E17

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Tan, lean, hard and smooth body
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Affectionate. Passionate kisser.
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E18

6'2" very handsome muscular 27
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E19

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E18

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Cleancut goodlooks. OUT 310-2930

E18

Hndsm hairy massively endowed

CHOKO ON THIS!

Hung 10x7 34 6" 150# runners bld
dominant mascln gentle strength
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loves 2b serviced verbal kink
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E18

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E17

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E17

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E17

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tan, vgl Men's Fitness model
44" chest, washboard abs, 25" thighs
hung 9.5x7" videos includes:
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E18

14 EEE

FOOT FETISH
24 HRS.
707-6000

E18

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5'11" 167lbs 8" uncut, total top,
smooth torso, suave 415-251-0261

E21

Handsome 22yo w/packed shorts

SOCCER JOCK

Lean, athletic body- versatile
Kevin pg# 605-5328 in/out 24/7

E18

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WELL HUNG TOP
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E19

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E18

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33yo 6' 195 Czech w/buzzed dark
hair, tats, hairy, built. Like
kickin back, getting serviced, and
blowin my load. Also w/s. light b/d,
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Late o.k.

RICK 415-863-1502

E25

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Unbelievably attractive & muscular
wants fun exciting kinky subs
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E18

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MUSCLE STUD
Cornfed midwestern guy. Cleancut
masculine, very defined, \$150. Out
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E18

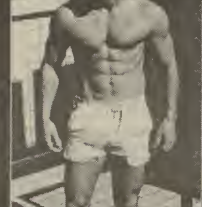
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body nice slim. I got a good
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Lean musc 5'11" 175# br/gr 8in ver
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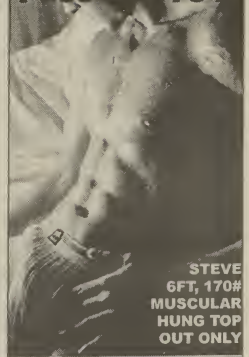
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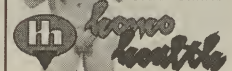


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Hung 9x6.5 cut, out only
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28" w 135# 5'10" 25yo
Charming slender & smooth
open-minded & affectionate
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E20

24, 5'11", 165lbs, brn hr, grn eyes

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affectionate student, 8" cock
masculine, friendly, very cute
smooth tanned swimmers build
mild to wild 100% rock hard top
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and body. Great sense of humor.
Serious only out only \$200. Jay
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E17

MODELS/ESCORTS

S/M SENSUALITY

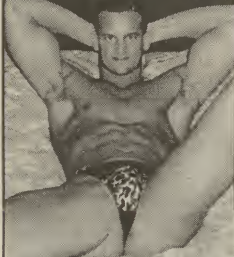
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Lord 431-0959

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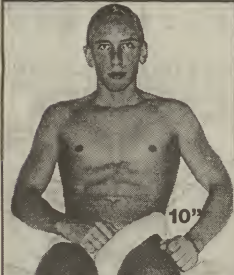
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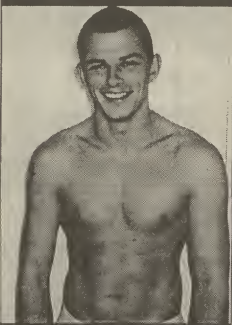
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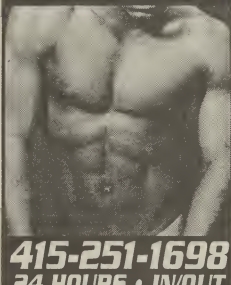


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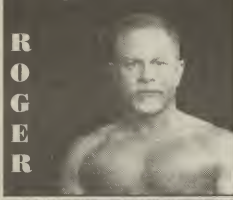
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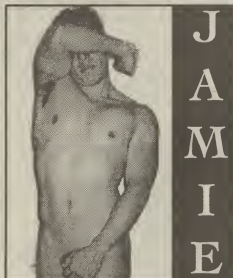


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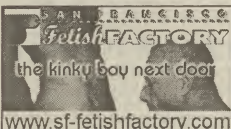
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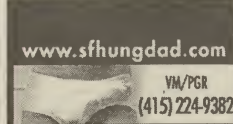
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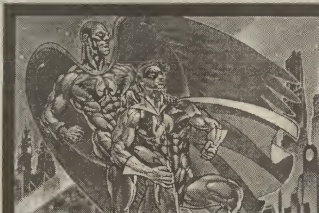
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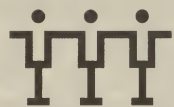


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